THE TIMES

No. 66,431 MONDAY FEBRUARY 8 1999 http://www.the-times.co.uk



The new twist to tweed
Fashion pages 14,15

Making babies: the couple who want to clone page 16

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS today's token page 41 TOMORROW: Fantasy League

Security alert for Hussein funeral

Fear of Iraqi revenge mission against Clinton and Blair

By Christopher Walker in Amman

A HUGE security operation is being mounted in Jordan today to protect Western leaders attending the state funeral of King Hussein from possible attacks by Iraqi agents.

Western security experts fear that President Clinton and Tony Blair, the instigators of last December's Operation Desert Fox, could be targets for hit squads formed from the thousands of Iraqi agents known to operate inside the Hashemite kingdom.

The American and British leaders will be among about 40 heads of state and government from around the world attending the funeral, which will also see hardline Israelis like Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and Ariel Sharon, the Foreign Minister, join mourners from such radical Arab states still technically at war with Israel such as Iraq, Libya and possibly Syria.

In recent years, agents acting for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his eldest son, Uday, have been responsible for a number of acts of violence in Jordan and are known to operate an intelligence network here which spies on the many refugees from the Iraqi dictatorship. In Amman, Iraq maintains a large and heavily-guarded embassy.

One Western expert said: "Even Islamic extremists in Jordan are not expected to cause trouble out of respect for the dead King, a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. But for the Iraqis, it is probably the only chance they will ever get to have both Clinton and Blair in their sights. Frankly, it is going to be a security nightmare."

King Abdullah II being sworn in yesterday

Jordan recently reinforced its forces along the borders with both Iraq and Syria in an effort to deter attempts by either of the radical regimes to take advantage of the ascension to the Jordanian throne of King Abdullah II, 37, Hussein's eldest son, to launch an attack or foment unrest.

Despite the precautions, it is readily admitted by Jordanian officials that both borders are porous and have been used for smuggling weapons into the Hashemite kingdom in recent months.

Iraqi anger at the American and British leaders provoked by the bombing of Baghdad has been aggravated by further incidents, including attacks on Iraqi planes and air defences inside the no-fly zones imposed on the north and south of the country.

Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that the Prince of Wales would attend the funeral on behalf of the Queen, a personal admirer of Hussein, who hosted a state visit by her in 1984.

THE TIMETABLE

10:30am (0830 GMT) Mourners gather at al-Hussein Sport City and are transferred to royal compound near the centre of Amman.
11:45 Foreign dignitaries arrive at royal compound.
11:50 The royal princes carry the coffin draped in the Jordanian flag to the main entrance of King Hussein's palace.
11:55 Coffin is passed to eight colonels who carry it to the hearse.
12:00 The hearse leaves for the Raghadan Palace.
13:00 King Abdullah pays his last respects.
13:45 Foreign dignitaries arrive.
14:20 The coffin is taken outside on a gun carriage, to the royal mosque. The body is carried on the shoulders of eight officers towards the royal cemetery.

The tendency of foreign terrorist groups to use Jordanian soil as a venue for launching attacks against visitors was shown then, when a bomb attack was mounted at the hotel where British journalists covering the royal visit were staying. That explosion and other threats were claimed as the work of the Abu Nidal terrorist organisation, whose severely ailing leader was recently reported to have moved his headquarters to Baghdad.

In Moscow it was announced that a still-ailing President Yeltsin would lead Russia's delegation.

The huge turnout of mourners from around the world in a country with less than five million inhabitants is evidence both of the enormous international respect and affection for the late King, who had ruled for the past 47 years, and evidence of Jordan's pivotal strategic importance.

The official Iraqi news agency Ina announced Hussein's death without comment in a bulletin from Amman. Ties between the two countries have thawed since a deterioration at the start of 1998. An economic pact was signed earlier this month and an oil agreement was concluded in January.

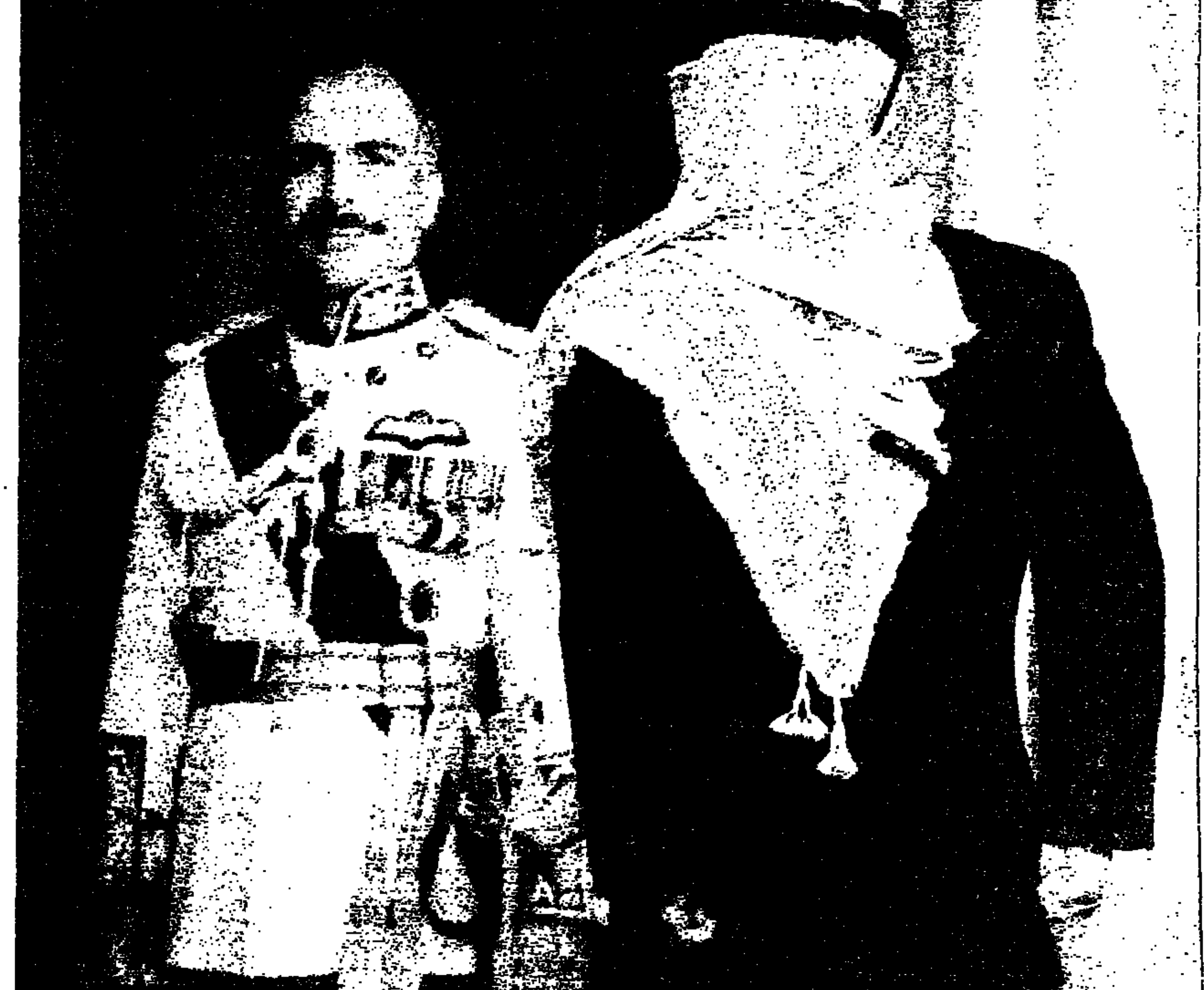
The guest list for the funeral outweighs in numbers and seniority those for two previous occasions of similar significance in the Middle East, the Cairo funeral of the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat after his assassination in 1981, and the burial of the Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, after his murder by a Jewish right-wing fanatic in 1995.

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, will be prominent among a large Israeli contingent to be led by President Weizman. It will also include Shimon Peres, the doveish former Prime Minister, and Yitzhak Shamir, another former Prime Minister but one whose ultranationalist views have frequently been attacked by the Jordanian Government.

The late King, who was pronounced dead from the effects of lymphatic cancer at 11.43am yesterday after two days on a life-support machine, was surrounded by controversy even in his dying hours.

Jordanian sources said that an attempt by Queen Noor, his American-born fourth wife, to have his body moved from the intensive care ward of the Hussein Medical Centre near Amman to one of his palaces, was rejected by doctors and he died at the hospital. Outside the gates, in rain and mist, about 2,000 mourners had gathered. Some had slept rough for two nights in the hope of a miracle that never came.

King Abdullah will be the youngest ruler in the region. Under the Jordanian constitution, he will enjoy the same sweeping powers as his father with the right to appoint the Prime Minister and with little effective opposition from a weak, elected 80-seat lower house of parliament.



Jordan's new King Abdullah II stands at attention in front of a life-size portrait of his late father, Hussein

In a surprise move, King Abdullah last night named his half brother, Prince Hamzah, as Crown Prince and heir apparent by a royal decree. The 18-year-old Crown Prince, who currently at Sandhurst, is the eldest son of Hussein's four children from his fourth marriage to Queen Noor.

In the weeks before Hussein's death, there had been heated speculation that the Queen was pressing for Hamzah to be named as his successor. Last night's move was understood to have been the personal wish of the late King and was seen as a further attempt to try to unify the feuding family against the difficult times ahead. In another conciliatory gesture, Jordanian sources said that the King's widow would be able to retain her title as Queen.

Opposition politicians, meeting in private in recent days, have drawn up a plan to press the new King to expand Jordan's embryonic democratic structures and to weaken the recent iron grip of the intelligence service on the media. Heavily censored and inaccurate reporting of the King's medical condition in his final days provoked widespread public anger.

Jordan's grief, pages 11-13
Leading article, page 21
Obituary, page 23

Small firms face squeeze

Up to 800 of Britain's smaller companies will be forced to leave the stock market because they are being starved of investment. Investors tracking stock market indices is making it difficult for small companies to raise money to expands.......Page 48

Pensions risk

Men who join company pension schemes are 50 per cent more likely to lose their jobs involuntarily than those who do not ....Page 7

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 50; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 400; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 22.00; Finland Fmk 30.50; France FR 17.00; Germany DM 5.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 750; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 5,000; Luxembourg Lf 110; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 90c; Morocco Dir 30.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Pts 400; Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland S Frs 6.00; Tunisia Din 3.200; USA $3.50.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Rahway NJ Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair Road Avenel NJ 07001.



Yard studies new charges against Lawrence murder suspects

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

DETECTIVES have been ordered to find new charges against the five men suspected of the murder of Stephen Lawrence six years ago.

Three of them were acquitted at the Old Bailey two years ago after a private prosecution filed by the Lawrence family. The other two were not committed for trial after a magistrate ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Now Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, head of the Yard's new race and violence task force, who took over the Lawrence case two weeks ago has ordered his team to see if the five can be charged again.

Mr Grieve's officers are investigating whether it would be possible to bring a new charge of conspiracy to murder or affray and assault. Last month a team of police analysts met at the Yard and began studying the evidence in the case for new leads and a new assessment. The law prohibits anyone from being tried for an offence for which they have been acquitted. Yesterday legal experts said new charges were technically feasible but may then be doomed in court.



Lawrence: Yard to reopen files six years after killing

But Mr Grieve is understood to be studying reports on a decision by American police to reopen investigations into the murder of three civil rights activists by the Ku Klux Klan 34 years ago. No one was ever convicted for the killings.

He has told his team of 15 officers at Scotland Yard that if a 34-year-old case can be reopened it is possible to reactivate the Lawrence inquiry. At the same time Mr Grieve is understood to be anxious not to raise the expectations of Doreen and Neville Lawrence, the dead boy's parents.

It was assumed that Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson could not be tried again for the race killing because they had been cleared. The case against Jamie Acourt and David Norris was never strong enough to get to court.

Any new trial would involve questions over the length of time since the murder of the 18-year-old student in a south London street in 1993 and the publicity the five have faced.

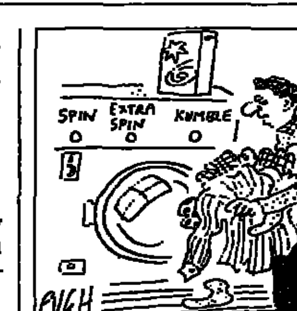
Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service, which will have to sanction any prosecution, said no file or report has been received but the case would have to be studied carefully. If cases are discontinued at a magistrates' court they can be resurrected but when a crown court acquits they cannot normally be renewed.

Professor Michael Zander, professor of law at the London School of Economics, said a new prosecution was not completely impossible but the chance of failure must be high. The prosecution charge would have to be different but the same evidence could be used.

Conspiracy to murder would be a different charge from murder but could still carry a life sentence on conviction. Affray and assault would carry lower penalties.

Anne Rafferty QC, a specialist in criminal cases, said a new prosecution would be difficult because it would be hard to keep the new case separate from the first. She said defence lawyers would say it was the same trial by another name. The prosecutors might produce new evidence but it would have to be revealing and show a different case.

Monumental hitch, page 3



Ten wicket triumph in Test

Anil Kumble, the India leg spinner, became only the second man in the 122-year history of Test match cricket, after Jim Laker, of England, to take ten wickets in an innings.

Kumble, 28, finished with 10 for 74 — second only to Laker's ten for 53 against Australia at Old Trafford in 1956 in the all-time list of greatest ever analyses. His remarkable efforts enabled India to beat Pakistan, their arch-rivals, by 212 runs in the second Test between the sides at Delhi.......Pages 25, 26

Classic karaoke for the bathroom divas

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

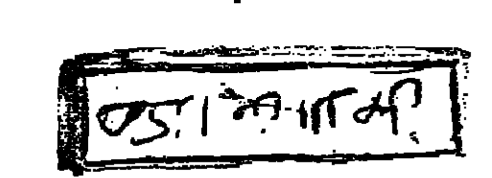
KARAOKE for classical music lovers is on its way. Latter-day Callases and wannabe Pavarottis will no longer have to belt out their arias alone in the bath. From now on they can have full orchestral accompaniment, and a backing chorus too.

Technology even allows for the support of professional soloists, who can be edited out or turned down if desired, to give a little support without drowning out the true star. Hitherto undiscovered divas and bathroom baritones will be able to make recordings, mixing their underappreciated voices with the professionals' music.

La Donna e Mobile from Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *Mi Chiamano Mimi* from Puccini's *La Boheme* are among 140 arias from 58 French and Italian operas being issued on ten CD-Rom discs. James Bulmer of Sunfly Media describes the company's Cantolopera Collection as an upmarket interactive product, and claims it is a world away from karaoke — Japanese for "empty orchestra" — and its associations with pop and pub culture, though Sunfly has hitherto specialised in such recordings. "With this," he said, "we have taken the concept that opera is sexy. Opera now is for everyone. It is for ordinary people who like a good tune. We all like a good tune ... No longer is opera for the highbrow intelligentsia. It has gone for mass appeal. The Three Tenors have made sure of that."

Lucy Hall of Classic FM said: "It's terrific fun. You can turn down that soprano or baritone and belt out yours." The radio station's May issue of its magazine, out in April, will feature a sampler disk of four arias. The recordings are designed to be used on a PC or Apple computer, the screens carrying the score and words, in English or the original language.

The recordings — made in Italy by the Compagnia d'Opera Italiana under the baton of Antonello Gotta and with young singers including Matteo Peirone — will be available in the high street from April. Each £37 disk will feature up to 15 arias, as well as analyses of the plot, biographical details, language pronunciations and a dictionary of operatic terms.



Brown to squeeze more tax from company car owners

Chancellor seeks to set green example, writes **Arthur Leathley**

COMPANY car drivers who opt for large cars with poor fuel efficiency are to be penalised under new tax rules. The Chancellor is proposing to charge employees according to how much damage their cars do to the environment rather than the price of the vehicles.

Gordon Brown is keen to deter companies from providing cars for employees, because they are usually large-engined cars and also because company car drivers cover a much higher mileage than private motorists. The majority of vehicles with engine sizes above two litres are company owned. Company cars are driven an average of 23,000 miles-a-year, compared with 9,000 miles for a private car.

However, Mr Brown is conscious that many of the larger cars that are used by employers tend to be made by British manufacturers. He has been advised of the danger to manufacturers such as the troubled Rover if he is too tough on company car drivers.

Treasury officials argue that a fairer system than taxing company cars by value would be to tax according to emission levels, which must be disclosed by manufacturers from next year.

The Chancellor is keen to use the company car tax system to force motor manufacturers to fall into line with new European Union rules intended to reduce pollution, due to come into force next year. More than half the 2.2 million new cars sold in Britain each year are company owned.

The moves, expected to be included in next month's Budget, will coincide with other plans, already announced, to increase the cost of the annual car tax disc for large-engined and energy ineffecient cars. Mr Brown will confirm in the Budget that owners of small-engined cars will have a £50 reduction on the £150 car tax, while owners of less efficient cars are expected to pay more than at present. Treasury officials believe that, by targeting company-owned new cars, manufacturers will quickly be persuaded to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles. A Treasury document published last November said: "There is some evidence that car buyers do not take full account of possible savings in fuel cost when deciding which models to buy."

The Chancellor will use the Budget to signal moves to focus motorists' and manufacturers' attention on emission levels. His plans for company car tax will create a series of tax bands dependent on carbon dioxide emissions. New cars that exceed agreed carbon dioxide levels will attract higher taxes for the employee.

At present, the complex taxation system is based on the value of the car, but some of the most expensive cars have highly advanced systems that make them more fuel efficient and less polluting.

Existing cars, where carbon dioxide emission levels are unknown, are to be taxed according to engine size rather than emission levels, although motor manufacturers say this is an inaccurate way of measuring pollution levels.

Treasury officials are considering whether to introduce a "escalator" into the company car tax system, under which the owners of most heavily polluting cars would pay a steadily increasing tax over a number of years.

Although ministers acknowledge that older cars are far greater polluters than new vehicles, they believe that targeting new cars will quickly have a substantial "trickle-down" effect on the 22-million national car fleet. Britain is committed to a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010.

The Chancellor, forced to abandon plans to tax private mileage driven by company car owners, is adamant that punitive taxes should be imposed on the least efficient cars.

The AA said last night: "If the Chancellor uses engine size as a measure, it will be totally bogus and clearly aimed to raise more tax rather than help the environment."

The Budget will set out plans to reduce car tax to £100 for existing small cars, probably those with an engine capacity less than 1250cc.

However, existing cars with engines larger the two litres, and possibly more than 1600cc, will pay an annual amount higher than the current £150.

Public scorns advice over food safety

A poll tells ministers that their scientific judgments carry little weight, reports **Valerie Elliott**

MOST people do not trust ministers to make the right decisions for them on such issues as beef on the bone or genetically altered food, a government-funded poll will show today.

A MORI survey for the Cabinet Office shows that most people trust independent scientists and pressure groups more than politicians for advice on matters of scientific judgment.

The findings reflect public unease with the handling of the BSE crisis by the previous Conservative Government. But the results will make uncomfortable reading for ministers who are trying to offer sensible solutions on a range of policy issues.

The poll was commissioned by the Better Regulation Task Force, headed by Lord Haskins as part of a debate inside the Government on risk management. A seminar on the subject will be held at the Cabinet Office today when the full results from the public attitude survey will be disclosed.

Tony Blair and his ministers will be left in no doubt that on certain issues they are not trusted to take decisions on behalf of the public. However, on such matters as terrorism, crime and drugs the public relies on government action and advice. Even on these, according to the poll, people believe that the state could do more.

The poll was part of a new strategy to find out if the public wishes to be "nannied" by the state or left to make its own decisions, particularly on matters of personal choice.

The debate is timely, given the controversy over the continued ban on beef on the bone and worries over the production of genetically modified food. Risk is attached to other policy issues facing the Government, from calls to set up a nanny register to concerns over some children's vaccines such as MMR (for mumps, measles and rubella).

Lord Haskins, a farmer and chairman of Northern Foods, takes a robust line on most of these issues, which he believes are a matter of personal freedom.

The issue of risk versus proportionality and how that should dictate policy will be the theme of today's seminar. Mr Blair will not be present but one of his close aides will attend and two members of the No.10 policy unit, Geoff Mulgan and James Purnell, are expected to take part.

While 86 per cent of those polled said that they had confidence in the food they ate, specific questions revealed anxieties.

Some 69 per cent were afraid of the long-term affects of chemicals in food, 57 per cent were concerned about the producton of genetically modified food, 54 per cent were concerned about BSE and 51 per cent were worried about food poisoning generally.

There was some surprise in the Government that as Britain approaches the millennium, 37 per cent still feared chronic disease from poor diet.

The public was particularly concerned about the effects of passive smoking on children and 80 per cent backed a complete ban on smoking in children's areas in restaurants and pubs.

The people who knew least about health and food safety where the ethnic minorities, those in the lower social classes D and E, and people aged over 75.



Jessica Brooks who, despite her experience, has not lost her love of dogs

Health fears may be overdone

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

PEOPLE are right to be worried about the safety of food, though their fears are almost certainly exaggerated when compared with the reality of the risks they face.

Public perceptions of danger appear to be related closely to the high profile given by the media to certain subjects, such as BSE, salmonella and pesticides. Food in general would also seem to be an emotive subject because people feel they lack control over, and reliable information about, the risks they are being asked to accept.

On the basis of 1997 figures, about 1 in 532 people in England and Wales, and 1 in 505 in Scotland, were sufficiently badly poisoned by food for their cases to be officially recorded. The chance of eating something that will badly disagree with you this year is thus fairly high, between 7 and 8 on a scale of risk running from 0 to 10 used by the Department of Health.

On the other hand, the risk of dying from eating contaminated food is low, between 1 in 283,000 and 1 in 566,000, given that food-related deaths run at about 100 to 200 a year. This would fall between risk levels 4 and 5, officially classed as "minimal" and about the same as the likelihood of dying in a rail accident. The risk of dying in a road accident is 1 in 8,000 and in an air crash 1 in 20,000.

These risks pale into insignificance beside smoking ten cigarettes a day, a danger willing embraced by millions, which has a 1 in 200 chance of causing death.

PESTICIDES

Perception: MORI suggests that 69 per cent of people are worried about the long-term effects of pesticides in food.
Reality: no hard evidence has ever been produced linking pesticide residues to increased illness in people.

G.M. FOOD

Perception: 57 per cent worried about production of genetically modified foods.
Reality: GM foods on the market are probably safer than many conventional foods. More reason to be concerned about the impact on wildlife and countryside — data still sketchy.

BSE

Perception: 54 per cent say they are worried about BSE.
Reality: eating beef now probably one of the safest things to do. Genuine reason to be concerned about level of infection to which everyone has been exposed: effects could take years, if not decades, to appear.

E. COLI 0157

Perception: 94 per cent aware and 25 per cent feel at risk (38 per cent in Scotland).
Reality: relatively new and rare. In 1997, recorded as affecting 1 in 12,170 in Scotland and 1 in 46,000 in England and Wales. More likely to cause death than more common bugs.

SALMONELLA

Perception: 99 per cent know of it and 51 per cent feel at risk.
Reality: second most common cause of food poisoning. About 1 in 1,600 people fell sufficiently ill in 1997 for cases to be recorded. Diarrhoea and vomiting most usual symptoms. Rarely life-threatening.

CAMPYLOBACTER

Perception: only 13 per cent of people know of it. Has never attracted same degree of media attention as salmonella.
Reality: commonest cause of food poisoning, accounting for about 54 per cent of all notified cases. Symptoms similar to salmonella. Fatalities rare.

Young heroes honoured

By Alex O'Connell

JESSICA BROOKS was staying the night with friends when she looked over at their family dog, thought it looked sad and bent to give it a kiss.

Suddenly, and completely out of character, the Alsatian attacked and severely damaged her face. Extensive emergency treatment saved Jessica's mouth and many operations have rebuilt part of her face.

Her mother, Tracy, from Aby, Lincolnshire, said that the bite was so serious that the surgeon stopped counting after the first 100 stitches. Yesterday Jessica was one of 150 children under 17 honoured at the Child of Achievement Awards at the Hilton Hotel in London.

Despite the attack, Jessica, 8, is still fond of animals and was upset when the dog involved had to be put down. She has befriended another dog who had been badly scarred in an acid attack.

Another winner, Matthew Robbins, 14, from Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, found that he had leukaemia when he was eight. He endured a bone marrow transplant and has spent much of the past six years in Bristol Children's Hospital. "I got leukaemia twice and I coped with school while I had it," he said.

Other winners include Abdul al-Raza, 7, from Berkshire, who suffered severe head and spinal injuries, and Rebecca Gough, 5, from Hertfordshire, who was a great comfort to her grandmother when her grandfather died.

The prize-winners were nominated by friends, family, teachers or doctors who felt that the children should be honoured for their ability to overcome illness, disability or for feats of kindness and generosity.

Tories would end EU control on aid

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE European Union's right to spend £700 million a year of British aid money would be scrapped by a Conservative government.

Under a change in overseas development policy to be outlined by the party today the EU's aid programme would be wound up and national governments made responsible for distributing the money currently sent to Brussels.

In a move to increase public support for the idea of overseas aid, policy would be focused more sharply on achieving good government in recipient Third World countries and on trying to prevent it being used to "support the lavish lifestyles of corrupt dictators".

A new document, drawn up by Gary Streeter, the shadow International Development Secretary, and backed by the Shadow Cabinet, marks a fresh approach by the Conservatives to overseas aid. They aim to make it generous and effective. Delivery of aid on the ground would be increasingly the job of private-sector and charity organisations rather than International Development Department officials.

It is the first policy paper to emerge from William Hague's Listening to Britain campaign and will be portrayed as evidence of the Tory leader's desire to change the assumptions that have underpinned policies. It confirms the Conservatives' desire to match Labour's commitment to working towards a British aid budget of 0.7 per cent of GNP, contrasting with the 0.3 per cent achieved during the last three years of the Tory government.

Mr Streeter's paper proposes that Clare Short's Department for International Development should become mainly an enabling authority, setting the strategic approach to development but allowing distribution to be carried out by private companies and "non-government organisations".

About 30 per cent of Britain's £2.2 billion aid budget is currently spent by the EU.

Leading article, page 21

Mowlam concedes peace process is in difficulty

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

MO MOWLAM conceded yesterday that the Ulster peace process was in difficulty and might miss the March 10 deadline for transferring powers from Westminster to Belfast.

The admission from the Northern Ireland Secretary underlines the crisis in the peace process, deadlocked over IRA arms decommissioning. The London and Dublin governments have failed to find a way around the impasse.

Dr Mowlam told the BBC: "We missed the Good Friday Agreement by a couple of days. We may well miss this. I'm aiming for it. The people are aiming for it, but nothing is written in stone."

Tony Blair is on stand-by to fly to Northern Ireland to help to break the deadlock and persuade Ulster's political parties to find a way forward. All sides are due back at Stormont next Monday for a critical debate to agree the establishment of ten ministerial departments and a number of cross border implementation bodies. But the stand-off over decommissioning is almost certain to hold up the time-table for change.

The IRA refuses to hand over any weapons, despite Unionist insistence that Sinn Fein can not take its seats on the executive until the terrorists hand over at least some weapons and explosives. Sinn Fein insists that decommissioning is not a pre-condition in the Good Friday Agreement to taking seats on the executive.

Ms Mowlam said the peace process was not unravelling but going through a difficult phase.

Students 'ought to pay full fees'

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

UNIVERSITIES are in decline and short of money, ideas and confidence, a former vice-chancellor says today in a pamphlet arguing for annual fees of up to £20,000.

Sir Graham Hills, a former vice-chancellor of Strathclyde University and government adviser, blames dependence on central government for the universities' plight.

Only by funding universities entirely through student vouchers based on the full cost of courses will academic independence and initiative return, he says. Degree courses would cost from £5,000 a year for philosophy to £20,000 for medicine, with scholarships and bursaries keeping down the cost for poor students.

In *From Beggars to Choosers*, published by the conservative think-tank Politeia, he says the expansion of higher education since the 1960s led inevitably to lower standards.

"Universities are no longer concerned with liberty, freedom of speech, the challenge to political or religious authority or reforms of education. They are principally concerned with balancing the books."

Feel free to attack the Lib-Dems, says Blair

By Mark Henderson and Roland Watson

LABOUR activists received the go-ahead to fight the Liberal Democrats in this year's round of elections despite the two parties' policy of co-operation at Westminster.

Tony Blair was warmly applauded when he told delegates at Labour's local government conference that a vote for the Liberal Democrats was a "leap in the dark".

His comments served to ease the fears among Labour's rank and file that links with the Liberal Democrat leadership were clipping the wings of local councillors, for whom the third party is in many cases their most direct opponent.

Mr Blair said that although he would work with them where the two parties agreed, such as in modernising the constitution, Labour would point out when they were wrong.

"Locally, they will promise everything to anyone, but can't deliver it," he said.

However, the chief message in yesterday's conference speech was a pep talk from Mr Blair to the 3,000 delegates, urging them to shrug off apathy and cynicism about the new Labour project and help it through its "toughest period" yet.

Although Labour were riding high in the polls, Mr Blair conceded that many of the Government's actions had yet to filter through to ground level. "We have got to get our noses to the grindstone and get delivery — it is as simple as that," he said.

He also warned of the dangers of losing touch or of internal splits: "What has prevented us from winning two successive terms of office has been the Labour Party itself.

Lawrence retrial 'counter to justice'



Anthony Scrivener, QC, argues that once a suspect has been acquitted a second attempt to get a conviction for the same offence would be wrong

THE longer the Lawrence inquiry went on, the more apparent it became that the police investigation into the murder had been woefully inadequate. The family tried to bring a private prosecution, but were not equipped to carry out a criminal investigation. They were left with the evidence provided by the police, such as it was, and on that evidence the prosecution failed. The accused stand acquitted of murder.

The accused were brought before the inquiry, but as a result of a court decision they could not be asked any incriminating questions. Their appearance at the inquiry did not assist in discovering the truth and the men's loutish behaviour as they left the inquiry was enough to anger not only the Lawrence family and ordinary decent people, but also honest and conscientious policemen who realised that the good name of the police force had been tarnished by the pathetic police investigation.

It is not surprising with this background that the possibility of having another go at the prime suspects should be considered. However any such attempt would face monumental difficulties and would run counter to a basic principle of the criminal law which protects those who have been acquitted.

Everyone knows that a person who has been acquitted cannot be tried again for the same offence even if new evidence becomes available after trial which points incontrovertably to that person's guilt. This is called 'the rule against double jeopardy'. But the rule is in fact wider than this.

Lord MacDermott, in an appeal from Malaysia, pointed out that the verdict of not guilty 'is binding and conclusive in all subsequent proceedings between the parties'. Once someone has been acquitted, the prosecution cannot challenge that acquittal in a second trial by seeking to prove him guilty of the crime of which he was acquitted.

In one case, a man was acquitted of murder despite the fact that the police claimed he had made an admission of the offence. His conviction for carrying a firearm at a subsequent trial was set aside on appeal because the court had allowed the admission in evidence at that second trial.

In another case, a defendant who had been acquitted of murder later confessed to a newspaper that he had in fact committed the crime. A Scots court held that he could be tried for perjury.

However, there are even greater problems facing a fresh prosecution. The courts have the obligation to ensure that criminal proceedings do not amount to an abuse of the processes of the court and that criminal proceedings are not oppressive or unfair.

In the Maxwell case a court exercised this jurisdiction. Kevin Maxwell had stood trial in a blaze of publicity on charges which the prosecution considered were the strongest they had. He was acquitted.

The serious fraud office then wanted to try him again on less serious offences which had been severed from the first trial. The trial judge would not allow this. The first trial had gone on for months. Kevin Maxwell had been in the witness box for many weeks. The publicity had been intense. The judge held it would be oppressive for Kevin Maxwell to endure a second trial, it would be unfair in the light of the publicity which potential jurors would have seen.

In any fresh proceedings brought in connection with the Lawrence case, the defence would rely on these principles.

The accused have been acquitted of murder. There has been intense and hostile publicity to which potential jurors will have been subjected. The courts will not wish to dilute these important legal principles which are there for the protection of citizens just because the accused in this case are so unsympathetic.

☐ *Anthony Scrivener is a former chairman of the Bar Council, and a leading Queen's Counsel.*



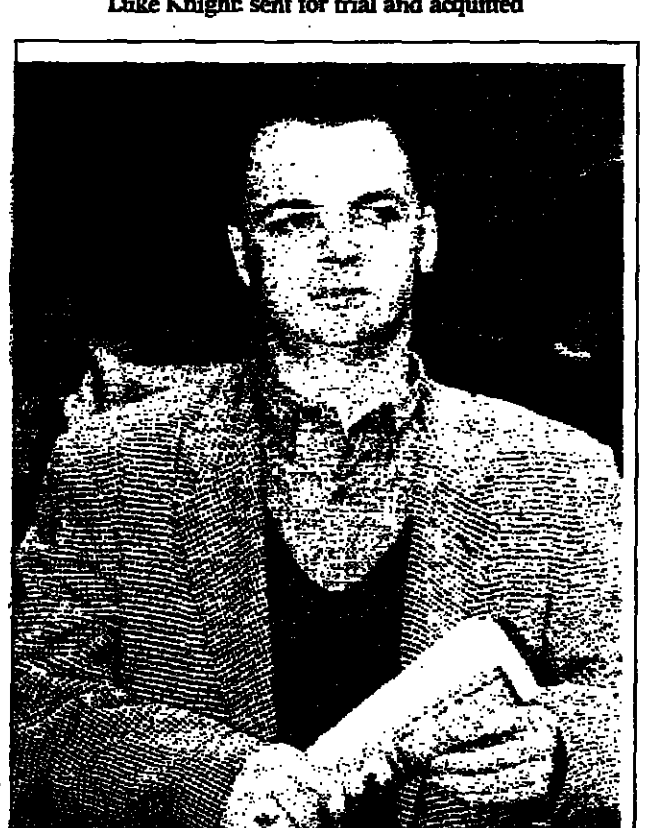
Luke Knight: sent for trial and acquitted



Jamie Acourt: insufficient evidence



David Norris: insufficient evidence



Gary Dobson: sent for trial and acquitted

Suspects never faced full trial

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE five young men once accused of murdering Stephen Lawrence have between them run the gamut of the legal system, from the magistrates' court to the Old Bailey, but none has stood full trial.

David Norris, Luke Knight, Gary Dobson, Jamie Acourt and his brother Neil were originally charged in 1993, but the case was dropped before committal proceedings began after the Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence.

A year later the CPS again declined to go ahead with the case. However, in April 1995, lawyers for the Lawrence family began a private prosecution. In August of that year Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson were sent for trial. The charges against Jamie Acourt and David Norris were thrown out after a magistrate ruled that there was insufficient evidence. The three remaining defendants appeared at the Old Bailey nine months later, but the case never reached the jury stage. The judge decided, after hearing defence submissions, that a key witness, Duwayne Brooks, was unreliable. He acquitted the three.

In February 1997 the five were called to the inquest on Stephen Lawrence, but declined to answer questions. At the inquiry into the police's handling of the case, before Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, they protested their innocence and were nearly mobbed as they left the hearing.

All five are reported still to live in the South London area where Stephen Lawrence was killed. None of them is reported to be working, although Jamie and Neil Acourt appear as DJs at a club.



Neil Acourt: sent for trial and acquitted

Hunt suspends pair for graveyard ride

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

TWO followers of the Heythrop Hunt were suspended last night for ridingthrough the graveyard where Sir Winston Churchill is buried.

The riders, a man and a woman, were banned at a meeting of the hunt after people living in in Bladon, Oxfordshire, near the Blenheim estate, complained that they galloped through the churchyard last Friday, damaging the cemetery. A newly laid path near the grave was cut with hoofmarks.

John Sumner, joint master of the hunt, said: "We are taking it very seriously. We have never had this sort of thing happen before. If we had seen it happen at the time, they would have been sacked straight away." Mikey Eliot, another joint master, who was riding on Friday, said: "I was furious.

"I denied it when someone asked me about it immediately afterwards, because I couldn't believe that anybody would be quite so stupid."

Speaking at the meeting in the home of another hunt master, in Upper Slaughter, last night, he added: "Two members of the hunt regrettably rode into the churchyard. Their membership has now been suspended and we regret any distress that may have been caused."

The six members of the parish council are also expected to debate the incident and are understood to be writing a letter of complaint to the masters of the Chipping Norton-based hunt. Mabel Dyer, chairman of Bladon Parish Council, said villagers were "very,very upset" by the way the hunt had ridden through the churchyard.

Mrs Dyer said: "Knowing that Sir Winston Churchill is buried there should have been reason enough for them to give the place a very wide berth. They have caused damage in the churchyard and galloped through the place where Sir Winston's grave is.

"The newly laid path has been pitted with hoof marks. It is appalling."

Sue Hawker, headmistress of Bladon Primary School, said that her pupils had been in the playground on morning break just minutes before the hounds rushed into the schoolyard.

Other villagers described how the hounds had terrified a young girl who was walking a dog in a field near the church.

Mr Sumner said: "We were hunting on the Blenheim estate, which runs at the back of Bladon Church. When the ground is as wet as it is, and the hounds are following a fox quite tightly, it is often difficult to stop them running off at a tangent.

"However, we realise that this was an unacceptable thing to happen and we wish to apologise to the villagers."



Bladon Church, where Sir Winston Churchill is buried

Penelope Keith must quit fund, says actor

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

NICKOLAS GRACE, the actor who played the stammering bon viveur Anthony Blanche in *Brideshead Revisited*, has called for the resignation of Penelope Keith, the president of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, after the charity spent more than £32,000 on lawyers and auditors and dismissed its general secretary.

Grace, who resigned from the charity's executive council last year after falling out with Keith, fears that the reputation of the fund is in jeopardy as it becomes engulfed in a costly legal action for wrongful dismissal.

In another setback, the Queen, who has been a patron of the fund since 1952, has announced that she will be stepping down this year.

Rosemary Stevens, the former general secretary, will today take her case for wrongful dismissal to an industrial tribunal. Her assistant settled out of court last August.

Speaking for the first time since his resignation, Grace, 51, said: "This is not a clash of personalities: it is a fight to save the Actors' Benevolent Fund. It has done fantastic work helping people, but its name is being tarnished. I don't like to think members' money is being wasted."

Keith was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Police corruption inquiry extended

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD'S anti-corruption detectives are investigating more than 350 potential miscarriages of justice linked to allegedly crooked officers.

The cases stretch back at least ten years and some involve substantial convictions for crimes including armed robberies and drugs. Special teams of detectives and lawyers from the Crown Prosecution Service have uncovered the cases during investigations into corruption.

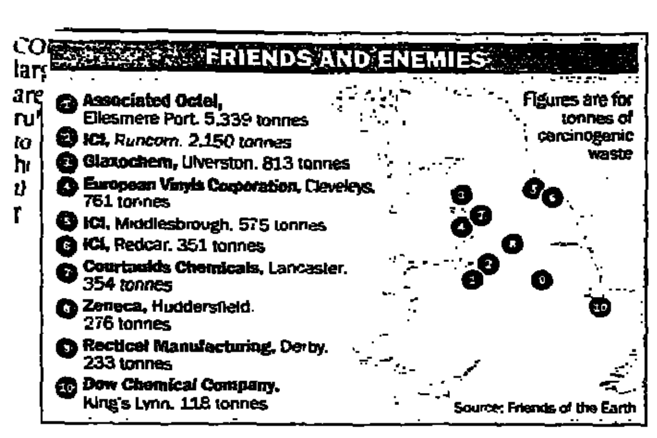
Last summer Scotland Yard officers were looking at about 200 cases of possible miscarriages of justice. Now Yard sources say this has risen by more than half in the past six months.

Lawyers for men now serving long prison sentences have also asked Scotland Yard to check whether convictions could be affected, and appeals may be made.

Hundreds of Yard officers have already been served with official warnings that they face questioning by detectives from the Complaints Investigation Bureau about what, if anything, they knew of malpractice. They include detectives from a team who are being questioned about allegations that some investigators may have used imitation guns and masks to frame suspects. The investigations cover all staff over the past ten years. The officers' ranks range from constable to superintendent. One of them is Detective Superintendent Albery Patrick, moved two weeks ago from heading the latest Stephen Lawrence investigation.

Yard sources said the officers are not being accused about their involvement in the alleged use of "framing" equipment but will be asked whether they knew about it. If they did know about the equipment, they will be asked whether they turned a blind eye. They would face questions about why they did not alert senior officers if they knew it was being used.

Website smokes out the polluters




CARL RUTHERFORD

Emissions from plants such as ICI in Middlesbrough fall well below legal levels: the company said that Friends of the Earth was being alarmist

Nigel Hawkes on pressure group's attempt to rouse public opposition

A LEAGUE table of companies that produce the greatest air pollution has been produced by Friends of the Earth to encourage public opposition to polluters.

The table of 97 large factories draws on data submitted to the Environment Agency and already on the public record, though not easily accessible until now.

Friends of the Earth has put the information into a website, with software that allows householders to check the safety of industrial plants in their area simply by inputting a postcode. The pressure group hopes that the website, Factory Watch, will stimulate local opposition and help to tighten environmental standards.

It was, however, accused of exaggeration by two companies that appear in the league. ICI said that Friends of the Earth's approach was "alarmist, predictable and unnecessary". Associated Octel, whose Ellesmere Port plants head the table, said that it was misleading to categorise their emissions as cancer-causing. The website states that, in 1996, the latest year for which data is available, large factories that made returns to the Environment Agency emitted more than 13,000 tonnes of "recognised carcinogens" into the air.

The total was more than double that, according to Michael Warhurst of the pressure group. He said that smaller factories, which come under the jurisdiction of their local authorities and for which no comparable data are available, probably emitted more.

Merseyside and northwest England are the worst-affected areas, the website says, with more than 10,000 tonnes of the total for large plants. Half of that figure is said to come from Associated Octel plants. Northeast England is the second-worst area, followed by the East and West Midlands.

The figures are not contested by the companies, but the effects of the emissions are. Friends of the Earth chose to define carcinogens by criteria adopted by the State of California in 1986, based on animal experiments that used much higher doses of the chemicals than would be encountered by human beings in ordinary life.

The carcinogens included chloroethane, lead and vinyl bromide. In 1996 Associated Octel in Ellesmere Port released 5,128 tonnes of chloroethane, 66 tonnes of lead and eight tonnes of vinyl bromide. The company said that, under World Health Organisation guidelines, there was "no adequate evidence" of a carcinogenic effect in humans of lead and chloroethane, and only limited evidence for vinyl bromide. "Friends of the Earth should have made it clear that the concentrations of the substances emitted are so low as to present no health hazard to the workforce or the local population, based on standards set by the Health and Safety Commission," the company said. Paula Shields, a spokeswoman for ICI, said: "Factory Watch is a regurgitation of out-of-date information. ICI openly and voluntarily provides information about all its emissions to anybody who is interested. Anybody who wants site-specific information can make direct contact with their local ICI works."

The amounts released by the plants in the league table mostly fall well below the levels agreed with environment agencies, so the companies have committed no offence. Friends of the Earth acknowledged that it was "virtually impossible" to prove that a given chemical was responsible for a particular health problem, but said that it was "plain common sense" to reduce pollution.

Associated Octel said that, in the past two years, emissions in Ellesmere Port had fallen more than 1,000 tonnes a year, and that in 1999 they would be less than half the 1996 levels.

The pressure group called on the Government to set a target of reducing the emissions by 80 per cent by 2005, and to introduce comprehensive pollution inventories for all sources of environmental contamination, including small factories and transport.

"The worst factories are being allowed to release a quite appalling amount of health-threatening pollution" Mike Childs, of the group, said.

☐ Factory Watch is at http://www.foe.co.uk

Leading tour firms give most cause for complaint

By Arthur Leathley

BRITAIN'S best-known holiday firms are the most likely to attract complaints from tourists, a new survey shows.

The poll by Britain's biggest independent travel agency points to wide variations in the way that companies deal with complaints. Some are criticised for failing to disclose records on the level of dissatisfaction among customers.

The survey by Co-op Travelcare, which has 260 agencies, shows that Cosmos receives the highest level of complaints, with 3.48 per cent of holidaymakers registering formal criticism, mainly over the standard of accommodation or the holiday representative. However, Cosmos says that its own figures show complaints running at 5 per cent.

The best performing company, according to the survey of more than 600,000 holidaymakers, is Bridge, which specialises in European short breaks. The company attracted no complaints from customers booking through Co-op.

Most operators estimate that between 1 and 2 per cent of holidaymakers complain. The companies that would not give information about complaints were British Airways Holidays, Kuoni, Panorama, Shearings and Hoseasons.

Behind Cosmos on the complaints list were First Choice, with 2.27 per cent, Sunworld (2.1), Sunset Holidays and Club 18-30 (1.8) and Airtours (1.45). Companies with the fewest complaints were British Holidays (0.08 per cent), Hoseasons (0.19), Shearings (0.22) and Haven Holidays (0.3).

Yvonne Rankin, general manager of Co-op Travelcare, said: "All tour operators who were prepared to supply their own complaints figures deserve credit for their openness. To us, it shows a commitment to customer service."

The four biggest operators own or work in partnership with some 70 per cent of travel agents: Airtours owns Going Places, Thomson owns Lunn Poly, Thomas Cook has its own chain and runs agencies under World Choice, and First Choice runs its own agencies.

Bomb suspects challenge key anti-terrorism law

Frances Gibb reports on a judicial review into where the burden of proof should rest

A KEY legal weapon in the fight against terrorism would be lost if a test case next month by four alleged bombers is successful.

Lawyers for the Middle Eastern men claim that the Prevention of Terrorism Act is in breach of the new Human Rights Act. They say that it forces the burden of proof onto the defendants, who can be found guilty unless they can prove an innocent reason for having materials that can be turned into bombs.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, is taking the test challenge to the Act very seriously, deciding to hear the case himself at the High Court next month.

The test action is thought to be the first in which defendants in a criminal trial are invoking the safeguards contained in the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Act is not yet in force but the men are arguing that, were their case to come to trial, then the prosecution could successfully be contested under that Act, which is likely to be in force by next year.

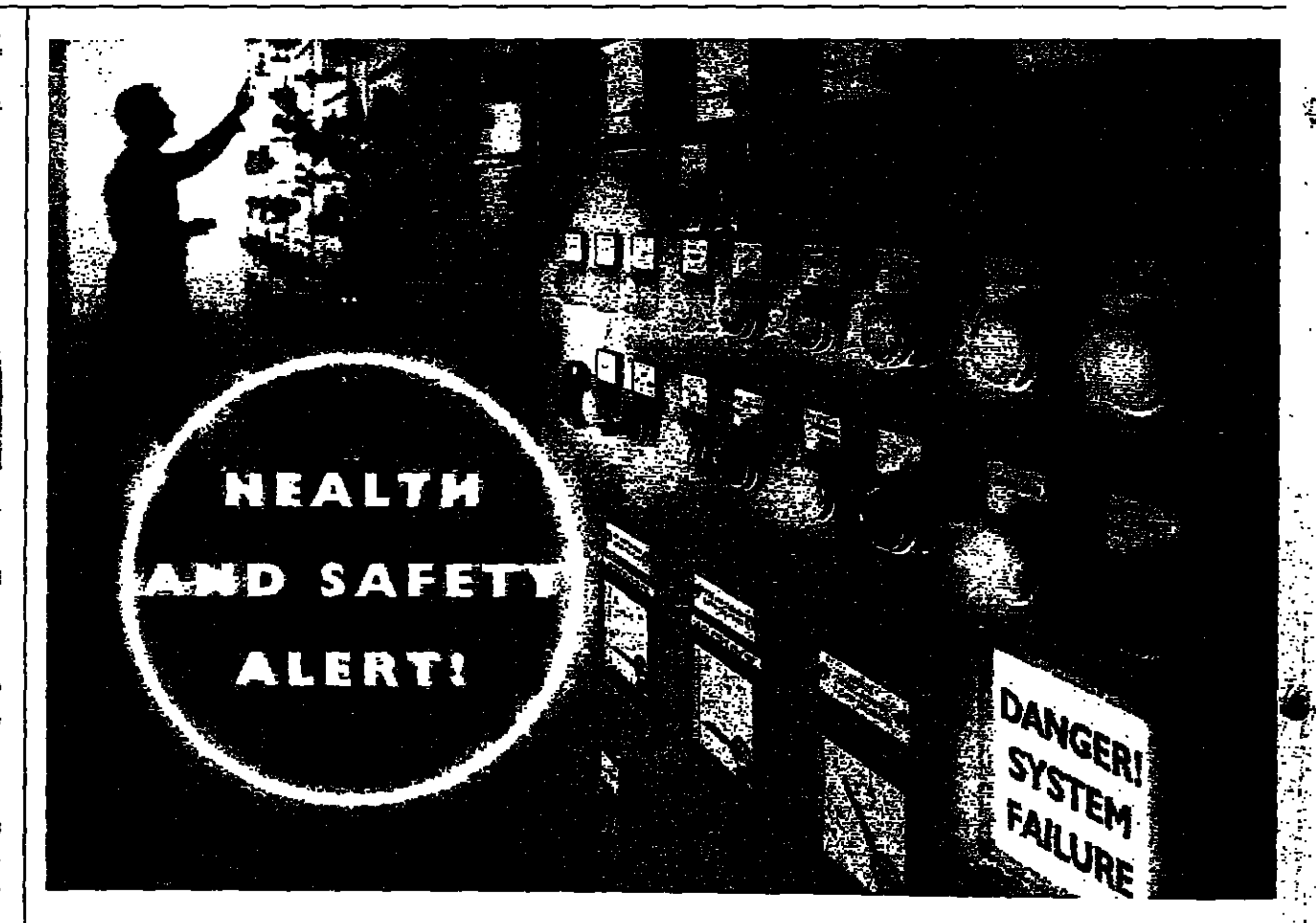
The men have won High Court leave to bring judicial review proceedings against the Crown Prosecution Service in a hearing next month. Because of the importance of the case, the Lord Chief Justice will sit with two other judges.

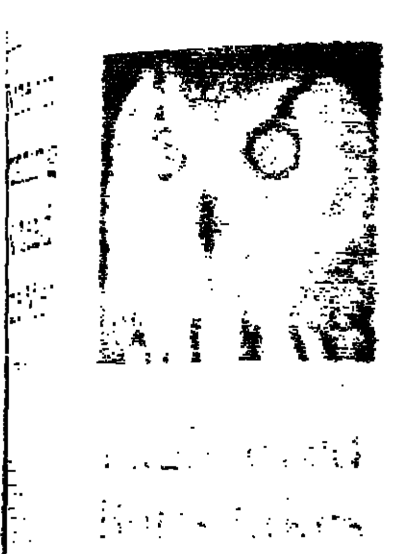
The case will be the first test as to whether the European Convention on Human Rights can be invoked in the courts before the Human Rights Act comes into force.

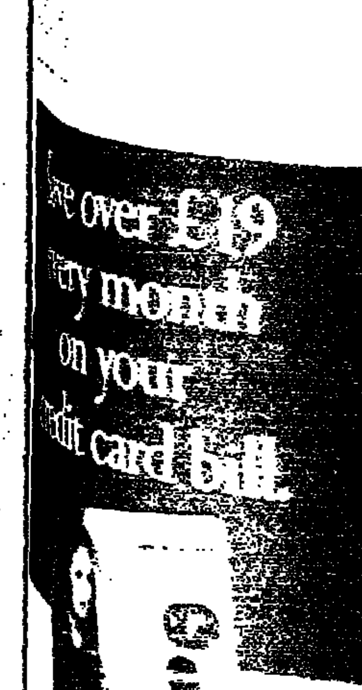
The men, who cannot be identified because of reporting restrictions, are alleging that the charges against them under section 16(a) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 and introduced by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are in breach of their right to a fair trial.

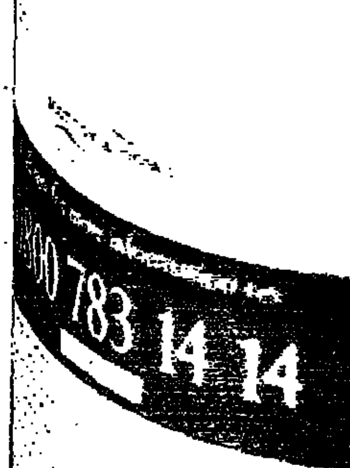
It is alleged that they were in possession of chemicals and other material with the intention of making bombs for terrorist activities. They are saying that under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, they are required to show that the possession of this property does not give rise to a reasonable belief that they were planning to use the materials for terrorist activities — in other words, the burden of proof is on the defence when it should be on the prosecution. The men are awaiting trial. The outcome of the judicial review hearing is being keenly watched by human rights lawyers and goverment law officers as the first high-profile test of how human rights provisions will affect criminal trials.

Granting the men leave to bring the challenge earlier this month, Mr Justice Turner imposed reporting restrictions under the Contempt of Court Act to prevent reporting of any details identifying the men or the circumstances of the charges.









Women-only training hits army target

Single-sex platoons cut injuries and increase pass rates, writes Michael Evans

A CONTROVERSIAL decision to introduce the first all-female platoons at the Army's biggest training centre has resulted in a dramatic improvement in pass rates and a significant reduction in injuries.

Although single-sex training units were considered by some to be politically incorrect, the scheme devised by Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Vandeleur, commanding officer of the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright, Surrey, has been endorsed by the recruits.

The 24 women nearing the end of their course in the Morley Troop, one of the latest single-sex units at Pirbright, said that, despite "inevitable bitching among the girls", they liked training separately.

"The men never treat us as equals anyway at our age," Lorraine Hindson, 18, from Newcastle upon Tyne, said during a break in firing her SA80 rifle at one of the Pirbright ranges. With women now able to compete for 70 per cent of jobs in the Army — only the infantry and armoured corps are still male-only — about 800 women are expected to pass through the Pirbright course in the 12 months from April 1 last year when the all-female scheme began. This compares with 534 in the previous 12 months when there were mixed platoons.

Colonel Vandeleur said that too many young women trying to compete with men dropped out, mostly because of injuries to the lower limbs. The women, at an average height of 5ft 6in, had to strain to keep up with the men, at 5ft 9in.

He said that all-female training units reduced injuries among the young women, aged from 16 to 25, by 50 per cent and pass rates had increased to 70 per cent. "So, whether they like it or not, it works," he said.

The young women are barred from fraternising with their male counterparts and are kept to a strictly one-gender regime. Even their instructors are female, if there are enough to go around.

Colonel Vandeleur said that the recruits reached the same physical fitness as men, but in a different way.

Pirbright, which has the largest intake of women, is the only training centre with all-female units. It handles recruits for the Royal Logistic Corps, the Royal Artillery, now open to women, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the Household Division, which is still male-only.

Rachel Batkin, the "baby" of Morley troop at 16 years 10 months, said that being in an all-female unit had helped her to get over her early homesickness. Alexandra Cottier, from West Crawley, Sussex, the oldest at 25 and an England footballer, said: "There are a lot of youngsters here and they don't know how to relate to an instructor who is a man. Women are more understanding."

Sian Cornish, 17 and 6ft 2in, from Bognor Regis, West Sussex, who wants to be a signaller driver with the Royal Artillery, said: "Sometimes it gets a bit difficult because of the bitching, but basically we all love each other to bits."

Corporal Dawn Rees, 25, in charge of Morley Troop, said: "The trouble with mixed platoons is that the girls get involved in relations with men."

The all-female units make training less stressful. For example, all recruits, male and female, have to complete an endurance run within 40 minutes. The men might push themselves to do it in 35 minutes or less, whereas the women, without pressure from the men, take the full 40 minutes.

PETER TREVNOR



Fighting chance: from left, Rachel Batkin, 16, Lorraine Hindson, 18, Alexandra Cottier, 25 and Sian Cornish, 17

Branded kit makes the army a sales force

By Helen William

THE Army has put a range of branded clothes, accessories and leisure wear into the front line of its recruiting campaign.

In its first venture into the commercial market, it will sell fleeces, T-shirts, baseball caps, combat-style trousers and mountain bikes, complete with the Army's recruiting slogan — "Be The Best" — from April. The range also includes watches, walking boots, ski hats and stationery. There are fountain pens with the slogan "Loaded with 9mm cartridges" and propelling pencils reading "Loaded with lead".

Colonel Rory Clayton, the head of recruitment marketing, hopes it will attract more of the 17 to 26-year-olds who form the basis of the Army's new recruits. He said: "This is about recruiting and image-building. After a long period when we have been forced by terrorism to withdraw from society, we want to make ourselves part of society again."

The range was developed in connection with Saatchi and Saatchi with the aim of making the Army more visible. *(PA News)*

Nine in running to head the Met

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

NINE of the most senior policemen in the country are being named in police circles as possible successors to Sir Paul Condon as head of Scotland Yard.

The post of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police carries a salary of up to £130,000 a year, a guaranteed knighthood and the chance to run one of the world's biggest forces, with 44,000 staff. It also brings the stewardship of a troubled force.

Sir Paul has already abandoned his ambition to stay beyond next January, when his seven-year contract ends. Now there is speculation he will go early if the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is highly critical of his own role and the extent of racism in the Metropolitan Police.

The post, which will include a contract for up to five years, will not be advertised. A shortlist of officers will be drawn up within the Home Office and the candidates will be asked to come in for interview. The decision will be made by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.



Boris: looking for a mate

Eagle-eyed Boris takes to the air

A RARE Siberian eagle owl whose eyesight was saved by laser surgery, has flown for the first time in two years thanks to the operation.

The 20-year-old bird, known as Boris and one of two of the species in captivity in Britain, flew the 5ft to and from his perches in a tiny aviary at an owl sanctuary on Goss Moor, Cornwall.

Carolyn Screech, who runs the sanctuary with her husband, Tom, said: "He is improving and, when he is more lively, we will transfer him to a larger aviary." Boris will be on show to the public this weekend for the first time since the surgery last month.

The sanctuary is in contact with Moscow Zoo about finding a mate for Boris now that his sight has been restored.



Whitehall urged to show true colours

Richard Ford on drive to combat racism in the corridors of power

THE Government is urged today to appoint blacks and Asians to senior positions in Whitehall and the Diplomatic Service as part of a drive to combat discrimination and racism.

The proposal from a Blairite think-tank would lead to the first member of an ethnic minority being appointed an ambassador. Ministers are also told to adopt the American practice of linking members of ethnic groups to their origins, using such terms as African Briton, Asian Briton or Chinese Briton.

The report also calls for ministers to appoint blacks and Asians to be their special advisers in Whitehall departments and to senior positions in the information service.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, author of the report entitled *True Colours*, said: "The challenge is for white people to transform their notion of nationhood so that ethnic-minority Britons have a place within it. It is also to get black and Asian Britons to see themselves as an integral part of the nation and not at the fringes. It is noticeable that advisers to ministers, and senior Whitehall officials, are almost exclusively white."

There are no members of ethnic minorities among the special advisers working with Cabinet ministers. The Prime Minister has personally appointed two people from ethnic minorities to the Downing Street policy staff.

In 1997 10 per cent of applicants for a post of assistant information officer in Whitehall were from ethnic minorities. A similar figure applied for jobs as information officers last year. The Cabinet Office did not have a figure for successful applicants.

Ms Alibhai-Brown's report, published by the Institute for Public Policy Research, demands greater recognition of the sacrifices made by black and Asian soldiers at commemoration services for the Second World War and for ministers to attend the Notting Hill carnival.

It urges the Government to create a "rebuttal team" to counter misinformation in the media about the three million people from ethnic minorities in Britain.

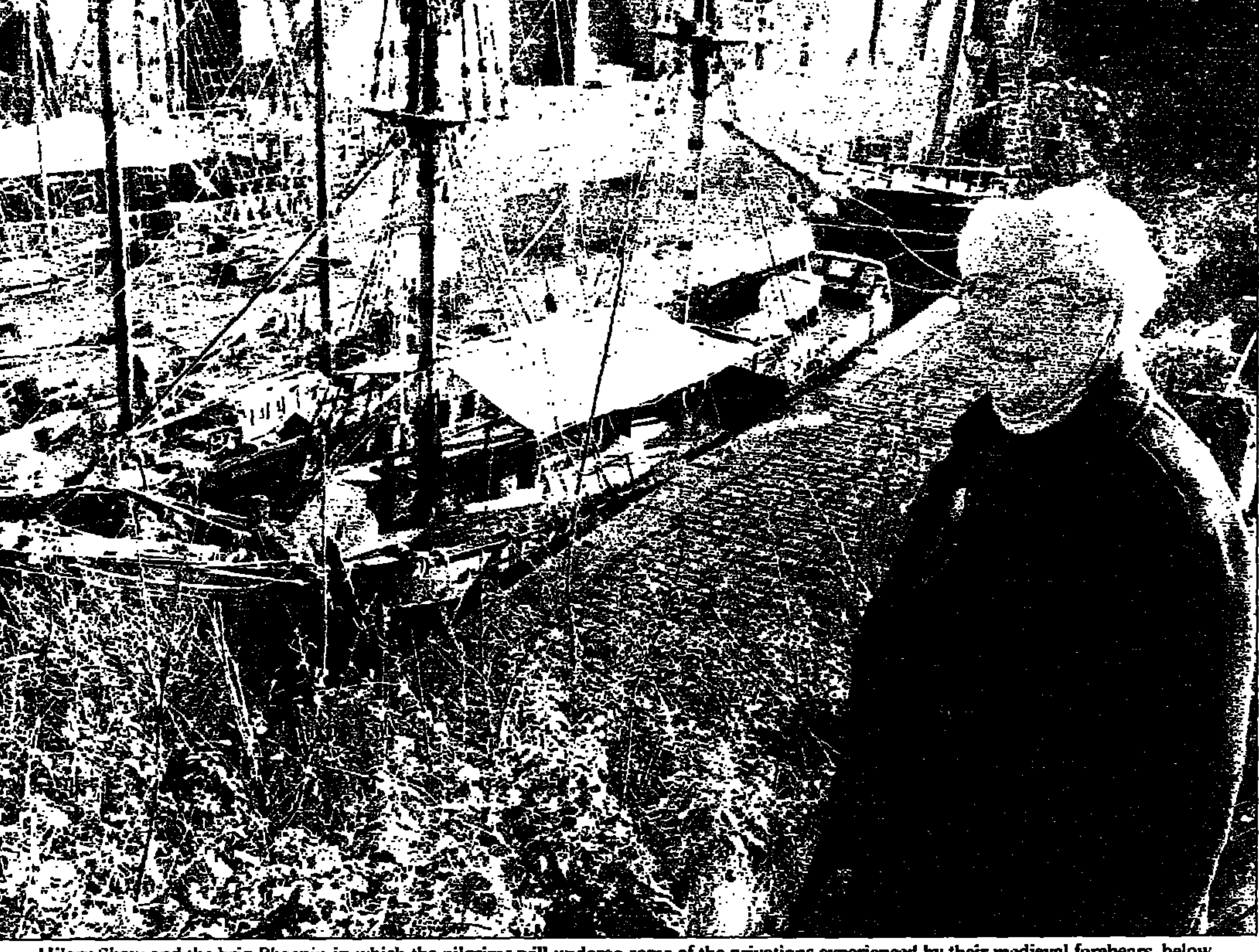
The report says that more stringent immigration controls had failed to reassure the public. The portrayal of tough immigration controls as a condition for good race relations had a negative impact on public attitudes towards members of the ethnic minorities.

Ms Alibhai-Brown says that, if the Government can promote its economic and social policies through the media, it could do the same for race relations.

The latest government figures show that 5.7 per cent of civil servants are from ethnic minorities and 53, or 1.6 per cent, were in the 4,000 most senior posts. No one from an ethnic minority has been appointed a permanent secretary, although one applied for a post recently.

Sumar Chakrabarti, 39, head of the Cabinet Office performance innovation unit, is the most senior Whitehall official from an ethnic minority.

Most Asians and blacks in the Civil Service earn between £10,000 and £15,000 a year as clerks and secretaries. About 120 earn £45,000 a year as middle-ranking officials.



NIC BAYLEY

Hilary Shaw and the brig *Phoenix*, in which the pilgrims will undergo some of the privations experienced by their medieval forebears, below



Pilgrims to set sail on journey through past

Simon de Bruxelles on an arduous trip not made since the Reformation

AN ANCIENT pilgrims' route from Cornwall to one of Europe's most sacred shrines is being revived for the first time since the Reformation.

In May 25 pilgrims will set off from the tiny port of Fowey on board two historic sailing ships bound for La Coruña in northern Spain. They will be following in the footsteps of thousands of medieval pilgrims who made the gruelling journey to the shrine at Santiago de Compostela until pilgrimage was ended by Henry VIII during the Reformation.

After the arduous five-day crossing, the pilgrims will walk the remaining 50 miles to Santiago, where the bones of St James are said to be buried. They will be joining an estimated ten million Roman Catholics expected to make the pilgrimage from all over Europe as the end of the millennium coincides with a "saint's year" for St James. Every year, tens of thousands follow the ancient routes over the Pyrenees from France.

By making the journey to Santiago, they will receive the church's plenary indulgence, wiping the spiritual slate clean. However, to qualify for a pilgrimage certificate, most will have to walk, or travel hundreds of miles by donkey, as the Church does not consider modern transport sufficiently demanding.

The Bredereth Sen Jago, Cornish for the Pilgrims of St James, will qualify because they will travel under sail in a manner similar to their medieval predecessors.

The group's main problem was finding authentic sailing ships, until a naval architect suggested Square Sail. The company, based in the historic port of Charlestown, Dorset, operates a small fleet of square-rigged sailing ships used regularly by film companies. The pilgrims will travel on the brig *Phoenix* and the schooner *Carrie*, both of which have few modern conveniences, save for 20th-century safety and navigation equipment.

Chris Wilson, of Square Sail, said: "The objective is to sail to Spain in convoy, making 100 miles a day, exactly how the early pilgrims would have travelled."

Hilary Shaw, who has organised the pilgrimage, said: "We will have to undergo some privations, but that will tell the strength of our belief. After all, imagine what it must have been like for the original pilgrims."

Before they board their ships, the pilgrims, who come from all over Britain, face a two-day 25-mile trek across Cornwall along the Saints' Way path. Medieval travellers, many from Ireland and Wales, would gather at St Petrock's church in Padstow before making their way to Fowey.

Ramblers protest at barbed wire of the law

By Amanda Brown

TWO English ramblers were symbolically cut free from a barbed-wire cage by an MP at the Scottish border yesterday.

Gordon Prentice, Labour Member for Pendle, is trying to get a Private Member's Bill through Parliament that will give English walkers a similar legal freedom to roam as those proposed for Scottish ramblers.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, inaugurated a consultation on the issue last summer and is shortly to decide whether to introduce legislation in England and Wales. The Ramblers' Association wants to persuade the Government to stick to its pre-election pledge of laws opening up uncultivated land in England and Wales.

More than 100 Labour MPs are backing Mr Prentice's Right to Roam Bill, which is scheduled for a second reading in the Commons on March 26.

Ministers have reportedly decided that the Bill should not become law. Mr Meacher, a rambler himself, wants landowners and farmers to reach voluntary agreements with walkers. If that does not happen within two years, laws would follow.

Mr Meacher is thought to be planning the Government's own Right to Roam proposals before the Prentice Bill is debated. Such a move would be unlikely to satisfy Labour MPs, who fear that the Government's scheme will make it too easy for landowners to keep ramblers off their land.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, announced proposed rights of access to Scotland's countryside last week, to be introduced if Labour takes control of the Scottish parliament. The Scottish Countryside Access Code would be drawn up by Scottish Natural Heritage. *(PA News)*

Photograph, page 24



Prentice: wants equality for English ramblers

66% say Dome is a waste of money

By Peter Woodman

THE £758 million Millennium Dome has been given a thumbs down from the public in a survey today about year 2000 celebrations.

An NOP poll last week showed that nine out of ten adults thought too much was being spent on the giant structure in Greenwich, southeast London. Today's survey shows that two out of three adults believe the Dome to be a waste of money, with three in four believing that too much fuss is being made of the millennium.

The survey of 500 people, for CIA Medianetwork, showed that 56 per cent of Londoners oppose the Dome, compared with a national average of 70 per cent.

Of those surveyed, 24 per cent said that they would not be celebrating the millennium; 42 per cent of over-65s will not be marking the occasion, nor will 13 per cent of 15 to 34-year-olds. Among those aged 55 or over, 89 per cent thought that too much was being made of the arrival of the millennium, compared with a national average of 76 per cent. More than a third of those questioned were excited about the year 2000, with almost three in five of 15 to 24-year-olds really looking forward to it.

The survey also found that more than one person in three is concerned about the millennium bug. "The public is already showing distinct signs of burnout with the hype surrounding the millennium," David Fletcher, of the media agency, said. "Advertisers and media alike should be wary of overegging the millennial pudding." *(PA News)*

Company pension is bad for job security

Alexandra Frean on study that shows well-paid older men in firms' schemes face bigger risk of redundancy

MEN who join company pension schemes are 50 per cent more likely to lose their jobs involuntarily than those who do not, a study shows.

Research published today by the London School of Economics says middle-aged men on above-average salaries, who may be tempted to think their generous remuneration packages are a reflection of how their employers value their services, are among the most vulnerable to company downsizing.

The report by the LSE's Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion shows that employment for men aged 50 and over has declined faster than for any other age group. Two fifths of men aged 55 to 65 are without work, compared to one fifth in 1979 — a loss of 600,000 jobs for that age group alone.

Nigel Campbell, the report's author, said men aged 45 and over who were at the bottom of the pay scale were the most likely to lose their jobs. Those on above-average earnings were likely to have greater job security, provided they did not have a company pension.

"Men in their early 50s with an occupational pension and in the top quartile of the wage distribution are 50 per cent more likely to be displaced from their job than men of the same age and wages but no occupational pension," he said.

Although some men took a willing decision to retire early, most did so reluctantly. There was evidence that pension scheme membership made it more likely that people on higher earnings would be pushed out and offered early retirement because employers wanted to cut the costs of making salary-related pension contributions.

The findings is likely to cause concern to the Government at a time when it is trying to reduce dependency on the state pension and encourage people to save for old age through company and private schemes or stakeholder pensions.

Government concern was prompted by research from the Pensions Review Group, which forecast that up to five million people could see their incomes fall by more than half on retirement because their pension provision would be inadequate. Professor John Hills, director of the centre, said the LSE study held important implications for future pensions provision, not least because it found that relatively few older people returned to work once they had left the labour market. The return to work rate for men aged 45 to 49 who lose their job is 49 per cent.

As a result, Professor Hills said, the growing ranks of men forced to retire early and who lacked sufficient accumulated pension rights risked swelling the ranks of the poor and socially excluded.

"The postwar assumption was that people would work for 40 years of their life. But the trend towards early retirement means that working lives of 30 years are no longer uncommon. As a matter of simple arithmetic, that makes it more difficult for individuals to achieve sufficient pension provision for themselves," he said.

The findings come as no surprise to John Hurst, 60, a credit control manager from Bristol who was asked by his employer to take early retirement two years ago. He has been unable to find a permanent job since. "I lost my job because they wanted someone younger in the post, although they would never dare say so. It is hard for me to get a job now — I have more experience and knowledge than most of the people I would be working for," he said.

Mr Hurst, who had expected his retirement to be "comfortable", is worried that he will have to rely on the state pension to top up his diminished company pension.

□ *The Decline of Employment Among Older People in Britain* is based on data drawn from the Labour Force Survey and the British Household Panel Survey.

Attenborough pleads for Chipperfield chimpanzees

By Helen Johnstone

SIR David Attenborough was among campaigners who called yesterday for the release of four chimpanzees still under the care of Mary Chipperfield, the animal trainer convicted of cruelty last month.

Chipperfield was found guilty on January 27 of 12 counts of cruelty to an 18-month-old chimpanzee, Trudy, who was kicked and whipped and spent 15 hours a day in a darkened box. The animal is reported to be thriving at Monkey World, an animal sanctuary in which it was placed ten months ago.

Jim Cronin, the owner of Monkey World, said yesterday: "Mary Chipperfield still has four other chimps in her possession and we are very worried about their safety." He said they included Trudy's brother, Teddy, five, a 27-year-old female believed to be her mother, and two others, one of which could be her father.

He added: "We want them here. She is clearly not a woman who can be trusted to look after these wonderful, sensitive and highly social animals."



Trudy: recovering from being kicked and whipped

During her seven-day trial, Chipperfield, 61, said on oath that she regretted nothing and would do the same again. Immediately after her conviction, she indicated that she intended to return Trudy to her training quarters in Hampshire. Her counsel said that she could not be stopped, as the animal was owned by Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd, which had not been convicted.

Sir David and Jane Goodall, a world-renowned expert on chimpanzees, have been assessing Trudy's progress at Monkey World, near Wareham, Dorset.

Sir David said a secretly filmed video of Chipperfield's abuse of Trudy, which led to her conviction, was an atrocity. "It is one of the most agonising things I have seen for a very long time."

Comparing the animal in the film to the excitable, boisterous, chimpanzee he saw at Monkey World yesterday, he said: "The idea that the law should be so inhuman as to remove that little infant from the company of her new family and return her to unspeakable conditions is intolerable."

Dr Goodall, who cares for over 100 orphaned chimpanzees in Africa, said Chipperfield should never be allowed to keep animals or work with them again. "Chimpanzees in the wild stay with their mother until they are at least five. Even then they still stay near her and help out with the other young ones." To take Trudy away now would be to re-orphan an orphan. "It cannot be allowed to happen."

JAY WILLIAMS



Steve Etches with an ammonite he found on the Dorset coast near Kimmeridge. The plumber has become an expert on the area's fossil layer

Plumber makes his Jurassic mark

A self-taught amateur has transformed the study of fossils, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

ONE man's obsession with fossil collecting has opened a window on the lost world of Britain's Jurassic past. Steve Etches, a plumber who left school without a qualification to his name, has single-handedly repopulated Britain's ancient seas with giant carnivorous reptiles, strange fish and swarms of swimming molluscs.

Until recently geologists had little idea of the variety of creatures in the seas around and over Britain in the Jurassic era 150 million years ago. Mr Etches has changed that by studying the Kimmeridge Clay, long neglected because it was believed to contain few fossils of interest. Deposited across northern Europe in the Jurassic era, it was considered of importance mainly because of its oil.

Mr Etches, 49, first took an interest in fossils in his late twenties, and decided to concentrate on the Kimmeridge Clay rather than the easy pickings at well-known sites such as Lyme Regis. Named after the Dorset village where he now lives, the clay is exposed in the cliffs and beaches of the area.

The tropical Jurassic sea was deep and perfectly calm at the bottom, and a steady rain of sediment quickly buried the dead creatures that sank there. Some fossils are remarkably well preserved — even the soft parts normally lost, such as the ink sacs of squid and a ray's wings. By developing his own techniques and using compressed air tools, Mr Etches was able to recover them from their shale shell.

The fossils include the two-metre jawbone of a pliosaur, the largest carnivorous reptile known to have lived, entire lobsters, sharks, turtles and shoals of beautifully preserved fish and fossil ammonites. The bones reveal a world in which the largest got larger and everthing else got eaten. Almost every bone shows signs of having been someone's dinner.

Mr Etches, who moved to Kimmeridge to be closer to the deposits, said: "I was going around to museums telling them that what they thought were scratches were tooth marks. Until I came along, this record of predation went almost unnoticed. Now everyone can see it."

Although he is consulted by palaeontologists from around the world, for five days a week he installs central heating systems. One day he hopes to open his collection to the public and work on his scientific papers, but he has to earn a living.

He says his wife, Sue, and three children have no interest in fossils and think he is mad. Too often they have had to help to carry some promising-looking boulder back to his workshop.

Mr Etches has two regrets: "That I didn't begin collecting fossils earlier and that I can't afford to devote all my time to them. That is what I really have a gift for."

Blunkett rejects calls for inspector to resign

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE Education Secretary rejected calls yesterday for the resignation of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, over his suggestion that affairs between teachers and sixth formers could be "educative on both sides".

Mr Woodhead gave a series of interviews apologising for the remark, made in answer to a student teacher at a seminar almost a fortnight ago. He said the statement did not reflect his true views and had been made to reassure the questioner.

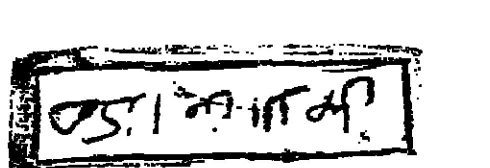
Academics dismissed claims that Mr Woodhead had been "set up" by opponents who were trying to make use of an affair he had with a former pupil 20 years ago. However, Toby Parkin, a secondary school trainee teacher on a four-year BEd course at Exeter University, was said last night to have asked Mr Woodhead the question because he knew about his affair.

Another student said: "He was trying to catch him out. He doesn't agree with what he has done."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the "gaffe" could undermine confidence in the Office for Standards in Education. "There must be a substantial question mark over his position."

However David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said Mr Woodhead still had an important contribution to make to the scrutiny of schools and the drive to improve standards.

"Despite what Chris Woodhead has acknowledged to be an unfortunate incident, I believe it does not prevent him from continuing to do his job effectively," he said.



هكذا بعين الأصل

A nation of prudes blamed for teenage pregnancy boom

Counsellors want revolution in sexual attitudes to encourage young to seek help, writes **Ian Murray**

BRITAIN has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe, largely because girls are embarrassed to talk about sex and frightened of their parents finding out that they have had it. Unlike other countries where sexual issues are discussed more openly, British reticence and prudish moral values mean that the subject is not properly handled.

In a survey to mark the start today of contraceptive awareness week, Brook Advisory Centres found that concern that GPs and counsellors could not keep a secret was the biggest deterrent to young people seeking advice. Legislation allows under-16s to receive treatment in confidence. The report says, however: "Fear that their parents will be told far outweighs any concerns about the results of unprotected sex. The lack of openness and acceptance of teenage sex in Britain means that many teenagers talk to no one about sexual issues. As a result they are embarrassed both about being seen entering a sex advice centre and discussing personal issues with staff."

The survey, by the country's leading provider of free sex advice and contraception to young people, was based on interviews with heterosexuals and homosexuals aged 14 to 18. It found that they were worried they would be asked awkward questions or would be judged, belittled or condemned by advisers.

Older girls complained that, if they asked for the Pill, they would be made to feel irresponsible. Boys, once they overcame the embarrassment of going to the centres, perceived their only requirement to be condoms, which are available free.

The report says that boys and girls discuss sex in different ways. Boys "joke about it for fear of being laughed at for their ignorance or lack of sexual experience"; girls swap thoughts and problems with each other and tend to go to advice centres with a friend to support them.

The survey found that gay and lesbian youngsters were more cautious about approaching friends and parents for advice. "If they are confused about their sexuality they are often quite isolated unless they have gay/lesbian friends or extremely liberal parents." They are less likely to approach doctors and generally do not seek help that would prevent disease until they have disclosed their homosexuality.

The Brook says that, for advice centres to be effective, they must be open every day until early evening, and have a reception area separate from the waiting room so that youngsters are not worried that other people will laugh at them when they come in to ask for help.

"Adults often forget how difficult it is for young people to ask for sex advice and contraception," Alison Hadley, the Brook's national policy officer, said. "This research is a powerful reminder of the anxieties and apprehensions that all too often deter teenagers from visiting services. International research confirms that easy access to confidential contraceptive services is crucial in reducing teenage pregnancy."

A survey by Harris to mark the awareness week supported earlier research that showed 20 per cent of unwanted pregnancies were caused by women's poor knowledge about how the Pill works. Forty-five per cent of the 300 girls questioned by the Brook were unaware that starting a course of the Pill late increased the risk of pregnancy. Thirty per cent were unaware that missing the regular time to take the Pill by 12 hours could cause it to fail, and 31 per cent did not know that a stomach disorder such as diarrhoea or vomiting could affect its efficacy. Media stories about the Pill had made 68 per cent worried about taking it. The abortion rate rose 11 per cent after the Pill scare in 1995.

A 24-hour Pill helpline, which has just been set up by Janssen-Cilag, one of the main manufacturers, is receiving thousands of calls for advice. The most common question is what to do after forgetting to take one dose. Women usually ring in the early evening or at lunchtime.

Contraceptive Awareness Week ends on St Valentine's Day, which has been designated national impotence day by the Impotence Association. Its aim is to encourage the two million men believed to suffer from erectile dysfunction to seek help. The association said that embarrassment was one of the main reasons for not seeking help.

Smear test trauma 'wrecked my life'

Mother awaiting judge's ruling on compensation tells **Richard Duce** of descent into drink and despair

THE victim of a smear test mistake told last night how it led her into a spiral of drinking and depression and came close to wrecking her marriage.

Lesley Cannon is one of three women who will find out this month if they are to receive compensation for the trauma that followed false cervical screening results at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

After considering herself free from disease, Mrs Cannon was appalled to learn that she had malignant cancer and turned to alcohol for comfort. Speaking for the first time about her ordeal, she said: "I thought, 'I'm going to die and I haven't had a life.' I was the mother of three young children, but I suddenly wanted to go out when I wanted. I didn't think I'd lived enough.

"It was selfish and destructive and I even started regretting having the kids," the 39-year-old civil servant said.

The love and support of her husband, Paul, has helped Mrs Cannon to pull through the sudden and unexpected diagnosis of three years ago, and the trauma of a painful hysterectomy. Both carry the emotional scars.

Mr Cannon, 33, also a civil servant, said: "It got so bad at home that I once told Lesley it would have been easier if she had died from the cancer."

The Cannons' story of human strength and frailty, and others like it, lie behind the bald statistics of the failings of the hospital laboratory to spot the first indications of cervical cancer during routine smear tests. Eight women died, a further 30 needed hysterectomies and hundreds of others required treatment.

Compensation of more than £1 million has already been paid to more than 40 women, but East Kent Health Authority is resisting the liability claims by Mrs Cannon and two other women, Helen Palmer and Sandra Penney. They are awaiting the imminent ruling by Judge John Peppitt, QC, who has described the case as "difficult and important".

In litigation that culminated in the High Court case held at Canterbury over two weeks last month, eminent experts have clashed over whether screeners at the hospital should have spotted abnormalities in the smear tests. Health authority experts said that, even with advances made over the past five years, the offending smears would still be passed as borderline or negative. Not so, argued doctors for the three women: the abnormalities should have been spotted and so saved the women from drastic surgery.

The case has highlighted the disparities between screening centres around the country. Experts for the defence were called from Leeds and Chesterfield, while lawyers for the three women relied on those from Hammersmith Hospital in West London and from Nottingham.

Sarah Harman, solicitor for the three women, said: "The evidence of the experts shows that pathologists have widely differing views about what can be achieved in cervical screening. The outcome of the case is likely to affect women's confidence in the screening process, which has already been damaged by blunders in several hospitals."


Harman: said expert views differed widely

Mrs Cannon, who has four children by a previous marriage, had smear tests at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital in 1986 and 1992. Both, she was told, were negative. By early 1996, she had moved and another smear was taken. In the weeks and months that followed, she learnt that the test was abnormal, as was a rescreen at All Saints Hospital in Chatham, and eventually that cancer had spread throughout her womb. She was told that unless she had an immediate hysterectomy, she would die.

"As soon as I knew I had cancer, the drinking started," she said. "The first Christmas was awful. I pulled down all the decorations because I didn't think anyone should be enjoying themselves. Paul decided that both of us needed professional counselling."

It was only after her operation that Mrs Cannon was told how far the cancer had spread over a number of years. Doctors who gave evidence for the women said the warning signs had been there in the 1992 test.

The drinking has stopped, but Mrs Cannon still gets depressed: "My husband and Prozac have helped me to cope."

The effect on Mrs Penney, 36, who can never have children, is such that she does not want to talk about the case.


MARTIN BEDDALL

Lesley Cannon: "My husband and Prozac have helped me to cope," she said

Mrs Palmer, also 36 and a mother of two, is more vocal. "To find out that none of this should have happened was almost as bad as being told I had cancer.

"It has been terrifying for my husband, Duncan. At the age of 34, when this happened three years ago, he was running the risk of losing his wife and the mother to his children. I cannot get life insurance, so he has still to worry about something happening to me."

Mrs Palmer added: "I still have to have checks every six months to make sure the cancer has not returned. You have to live with the constant fear that it could come back.

"None of us has had a proper letter of apology. I feel very strongly that I am not only pursuing this for myself and my family, but for those eight women who died."

Royal warrant runs out of puff after 123 years

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

BENSON and Hedges cigarettes are to lose the royal coat of arms from their boxes after the decision to withdraw the royal warrant from the tobacco company Gallaher.

Buckingham Palace said that the decision to end an association going back to 1876 was made because of a decline in royal smoking. Cigarettes are supplied for Palace guests, but most of the Royal Family do not smoke and the Prince of Wales is known to be a strong opponent.

A Palace spokesman, however, confirmed that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother would continue to grant warrants to John Player and a London cigar supplier.

Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health, said last night: "This is an important symbolic breakthrough." More than 120,000 people in Britain die each year from smoking-related diseases and the Queen's family has not escaped. Her father, George VI, a heavy smoker, died aged 56 from suffering lung cancer. George V, also a smoker, suffered bronchial infection before his death and Edward VII, who smoked cigars, died in 1910 from bronchial complications. Princess Margaret, 68, is said to have given up her 60-a-day habit because of health scares.



Appointment cancelled: the arms will be dropped

Bill O'Neill, ethics and science adviser to the British Medical Association, said: "Over many years we have expressed concern about the presence of the royal warrant on a product that is known to cause so much disease, disability and death."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that the decision would not have been taken by the Queen, but by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association. "If the level of provision drops over a number of consecutive years the warrant is likely to be reviewed and taken away," he said.

There are currently more than 800 holders of royal warrants. Other products that have lost their warrant include Booth's gin, in 1996, and Guinness the year before.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Last Diana aide resigns from fund

Jackie Allen, former secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, has given notice of her resignation from the Princess's memorial fund. Her departure next Monday will sever the final link with the team who worked at Kensington Palace before the Princess's death in August 1997.

The resignation comes a few weeks after her butler, Paul Burrell, lost his job working with Ms Allen in the fundraising section of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. At the time, Ms Allen, 35, criticised the fund for not supporting Mr Burrell.

Mother accused

A woman is due in court today, charged with murdering her son. Shirley Jordan, 61, of Fulham, will appear at West London Magistrates' Court accused of the murder on Saturday of Joseph Jordan, 41, of the same address.

Santa in surgery

Nigel Rogoff, the RAF parachutist who hit a football stand while dressed as Father Christmas, is having up to four operations a week on his injured leg to control an infection. Flight Sergeant Rogoff, 39, is in City Hospital, Birmingham.

White way to go

Grampian Fire Brigade is to paint its fleet of 56 engines white after studies showed that red was the most difficult colour to see in darkness and that motorists had difficulty in seeing its appliances in the glare of street lighting.

Student holidays

An estimated 1.5 million students will travel abroad this summer, with Australia, Thailand and India popular destinations, a survey has found. Many go in their "gap year" before university, but others in the year after graduating.

Triple charge

Sotiris Mehmet, 31, of Wood Green, North London, will appear at Enfield Magistrates' Court today on three charges of attempted murder and rape. The attacks are alleged to have occurred in the North London area in 1994 and 1996.

A fair record

The biggest trade fair held in Britain, beating the record set by the 1851 Great Exhibition, opened at the National Exhibition Centre yesterday. Spring Fair Birmingham is occupying all 1.2 million square feet of the huge venue.

Blair voted spiritual leader

TONY BLAIR is the moral and spiritual leader of Britain, with the sacked England football coach Glenn Hoddle not far behind, according to a poll carried out after Hoddle's remarks about the disabled. The Prime Minister finished ahead of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Basil Hume and the Queen in a survey of 2,000 people in England and Wales conducted by *The Sunday Times*.

The survey asked who provided the best moral and spiritual leadership from a choice of 35 public figures.

The rest of the top ten were the Chief Rabbi, Dalai Lama, the Prince of Wales, Terry Waite, the Princess Royal and Baroness Thatcher. The top ten for those aged between 15 and 16 was: Sir Bobby Charlton, the Prince of Wales, Sean Connery, Steven Spielberg, the Queen, Tony Blair, the Princess Royal, Trevor McDonald, Robbie Williams and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Hoddle was 21st in the adult table and 15th among the children.

A professor of sociology said that Mr Blair appealed to a strong spirituality that remained in society despite the drop in numbers going to church.

James Beckford, from Warwick University, said: "Although church attendance is declining, many people have not lost their interest in religious and spiritual themes. Many of the statements Blair makes resonate with those who have not lost their spiritual musicality."

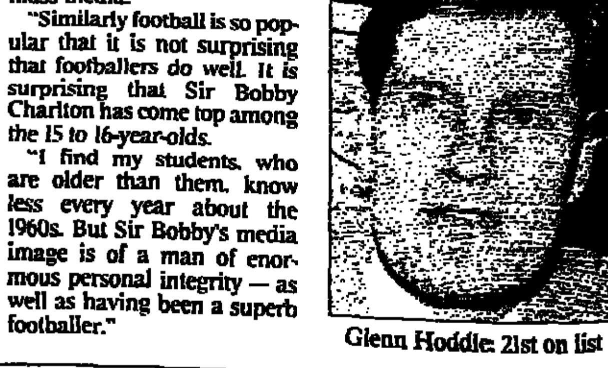
The survey as a whole, he said, showed the dominant influence of the mass media on society. "The list shows the fixation there is with media-type celebrities. It lacks evidence of any influence from literary, philosophical or artistic sources.

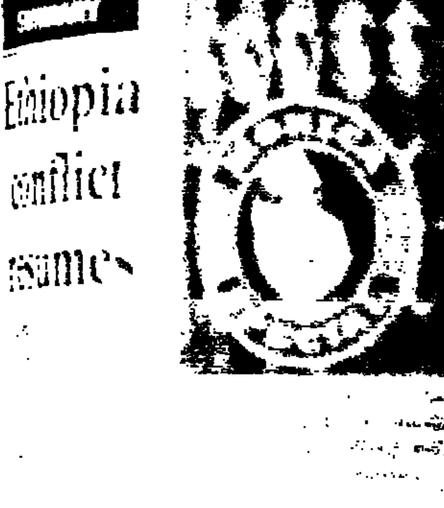
"But it does illustrate the weakening of local society. People are not going to hear from their local clergy so much these days; information is beamed to them instead, from more central sources.

"Most of us are now part of an audience, we are not part of a congregation. People have turned away from religious organisations towards celebrities who dominate the mass media.

"Similarly football is so popular that it is not surprising that footballers do well. It is surprising that Sir Bobby Charlton has come top among the 15 to 16-year-olds.

"I find my students, who are older than them, know less every year about the 1960s. But Sir Bobby's media image is of a man of enormous personal integrity — as well as having been a superb footballer."


Glenn Hoddle: 21st on list



Mugabe denounces British 'saboteurs'

In confronting judges, the Harare leader has attacked 'agents in our midst', writes Michael Hartnack

ZIMBABWE was yesterday gripped by its gravest diplomatic and constitutional crisis since independence in 1980 after President Mugabe accused Britain of infiltrating agents to undermine him and threatened to dismiss judges critical of his human rights record.

In an unscheduled broadcast to the nation, Mr Mugabe said two journalists who claimed they were tortured in the custody of military police had forfeited the protection of the law by fabricating reports of a coup plot among soldiers opposed to Zimbabwe's intervention in the war in the Republic of Congo.

Mr Mugabe, 75, accused Zimbabwe's 70,000 whites of fomenting unrest. "Let me state this quite emphatically — they have pushed our sense of racial tolerance to the limit," he said in an emotional and rambling 25-minute address.

Members of the European Union, the United States, Japan, Canada, and Australia, which have protested over the treatment of Mark Chavunduka, editor of the *Zimbabwe Standard*, and Ray Choto, a reporter, were yesterday understood to be seeking full transcripts of the broadcast.

Diplomatic sources believe Mr Mugabe has discredited pledges of government reform which he made last month to the International Monetary Fund, in the hope of $88 million (£55 million) in support for the stricken economy.

However, David Coltart, a human rights lawyer named by Mr Mugabe among whites "bent on ruining the national unity and loyalty of our people", said the gravest immediate threat was to the judges now facing removal for protesting at repeated contempts of court by ministers over the journalists' treatment.

Mr Mugabe claimed he had the constitutional power to appoint judges and said those who had called for assurances that he would observe the rule of law were guilty of "utter indiscretion . . . an outrageous act of judicial impudence".

They could not be impartial in future cases involving the *Zimbabwe Standard* nor, he implied, pending appeals by 841 white farmers against seizure of their land for redistribution to black Zimbabweans.

Anthony Gubbay, the British-born Chief Justice, was out of the country when Supreme Court judges Nicholas McNally, Simbarashe Muchechetere and Wilson Sandura last month sent a letter warning of "a descent into anarchy" to Mr Mugabe. This was backed by Mr Justice Ishmail Adam on behalf of the 27 judges of the High Court bench. Chief Justice Gubbay yesterday maintained silence on the crisis.

Mr Mugabe said peace was "clearly being undermined by some white persons of British extraction who have been planted in our midst to undertake acts of sabotage aimed at affecting the loyalty of not just our people in general but also that of vital arms of government like the army, so these can turn against the legitimate Government of this country."

Mr Mugabe said whites "must atone for the sins of their evil past . . . let them be warned that, unless their insidious acts cease, my Government will not hesitate in taking stern measures against them and those who have elected to be their puppets."

Geoffrey Nyarota, editor-in-chief of the new Associated Newspapers group, which plans to challenge Mr Mugabe's monopoly of the state-owned press, yesterday confirmed that Tony O'Reilly, the Irish magnate, had abandoned plans for a 14 per cent shareholding.

AHN YOUNG-JOON / AP



Moonstruck newlyweds

One of 20,000 brides uses binoculars to follow proceedings as the Rev Sun Myung Moon conducts a mass marriage ceremony at Seoul's Olympic stadium. As the charismatic head of the Unification Church blessed the 40,000 newlyweds yesterday, millions of other "Moonies" around the world took part in the "Blessing '99" service via a live satellite broadcast and the Internet. Most of the unmarried couples from 193 countries taking part in the the controversial South Korean leader's annual ceremony were said to have been matched through photographs and met only hours or days beforehand. *(AFP)*

WORLD SUMMARY

Ethiopia conflict resumes

Nairobi: Ethiopia and Eritrea said their forces were engaged in full-scale conflict along their disputed border, after the first outbreak of clashes since hundreds of people were killed in fighting between the two countries last May (Robin Lodge writes).

Ethiopia accused Eritrea of bombing Ethiopian positions on Friday near the disputed enclave of Badme, occupied by Eritrean forces in last year's clashes. Eritrea said that Ethiopia had started the offensive with ground troops backed by helicopter gunships.

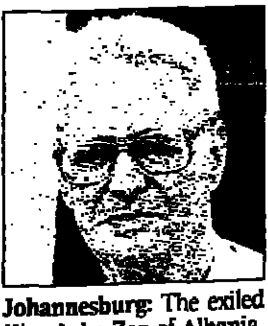
Activist kills himself

Karachi: Agha Jehangir Khan, 35 — a Pakistan People's Party activist confined to a wheelchair since being wounded in 1986 when opposing the then military Government — shot himself dead at a Sukkur news conference in southern Sindh.He said: "I have fought for democracy but now I am helpless." *(AFP)*

China seizes dissident

Beijing: Wang Zechen, a dissident who challenged the Communist Party by helping to form branches of the banned Chinese Democratic Party last week, was arrested as China prepared for a human rights dialogue with the European Union in Berlin today (James Pringle writes).

Exiled King in custody



Johannesburg: The exiled King Leka Zog of Albania, above, spent the weekend in a South African prison after police raided his home and seized weapons (Ray Kennedy writes). The raid came after President Mandela withdrew his diplomatic privileges.

France loses last cavalier

Paris: Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Ballarin, who in January 1941 led the last charge on horseback in the history of the French cavalry, against the Italians at Umberga in Eritrea, died aged 85, friends said. *(Reuters)*



Monica Lewinsky's face adorns packs of special cigars now selling well in the Philippines

Clinton accusers rejected by own party

By Damian Whitworth in Washington

WITh the impeachment trial of President Clinton expected to end in acquittal this week, it appeared last night that even Republican support for conviction was dwindling.

It has been clear for some time that the required two thirds of the 100-member Senate will not find the President guilty of the charges before them and remove him from office.

But, in a blow to the Republican members of the House of Representatives who are acting as prosecutors, a sizeable group of senators from their own party have been suggesting that they will find Mr Clinton guilty of obstructing justice. However, they are unconvinced that be lied under oath about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Disquiet about the effectiveness of the prosecution — which signals that the trial inquest will be long and painful — does not mean that senators regard Mr Clinton as innocent of perjury. But they have not been persuaded that his conduct rises to the level of an impeachable offence.

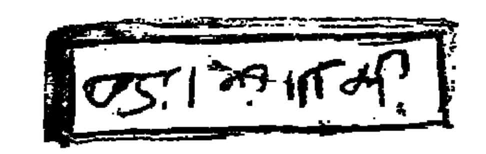
"Most everybody agrees, to some degree, there's been some lying, there's been some obstruction of justice. You have different views, I guess, as to what you do about it," said Craig Thomas, a Republican senator.

Closing arguments begin today with a vote on the articles of impeachment likely by Friday. It remains unclear whether a simple majority of senators could pass an additional "finding of facts" motion finding Mr Clinton guilty but not removing him from office.

Democrats hope Republicans will then join them instead in rebuking Mr Clinton with a censure motion. But there would clearly be some battles over wording.

Controversy erupted yesterday over Sidney Blumenthal, the senior aide, who testified last week that the President had told him Ms Lewinsky was a "stalker". He was seen on videotape denying responsibility for that description being leaked to the press early in the scandal.

But Christopher Hitchens, a Washington-based British journalist, has signed an affidavit stating the description was used several times during a lunch.



MANOOCHER DEGHATI / AFP

Rambouillet château, where the Kosovo talks are being held behind closed doors

First step taken to Kosovo deal

MIKICA PETROVIC / AP



Serbian Orthodox priests, invited as observers to the Paris talks, have their passports checked at Belgrade airport yesterday

FROM TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET AND ANTHONY LOYD IN PRISTINA

THE first tentative steps towards any peace deal between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Serbian and Yugoslav officials remained hidden behind the gates of Château Rambouillet yesterday.

The sleepy little suburb of Paris was engulfed by the satellite dishes and digital technology of the modern media bandwagon, but by nightfall few were any the wiser as to whether any real dialogue between the two warring sides had been established. The various spokesmen charged with briefing the press corps gave out what slim pickings of information there were; riot police backed by batteries of anti-aircraft missiles within the château grounds were on hand to put off the more inquisitive.

Only hours after the negotiations opened, three ethnic Albanians were killed in a bomb explosion in the centre of Pristina on Saturday. The attack was the latest in a series of grenade attacks on Pristina cafés over the past week which have brought the war to the city. The recent wave of attacks have hit both Serb and Albanian bars and appear to have been triggered by the killing of 24 Albanians by Serb security forces nine days ago.

Differing from the previous pattern, in both its power and targeting, Saturday's device went off outside a mini-market. The three dead, who included a woman and teenage girl, were shredded into pieces.

In Rambouillet, the US spokesman, Phil Reeker, emerged to read a statement agreed by both Serbs and Albanians denouncing the Pristina bomb. Later, Serb sources claimed a ten-point list of principles had been concluded which spoke about autonomy rather than independence for Kosovo.

A Western diplomat dismissed such Serb claims as "pure spin". All that was happening inside, he said, was "a clearing of undergrowth so that they can at least begin talking about the less contentious issues".

These, he said, included the make-up of a new parliament for Kosovo, and details of how to establish a customs union and single market with the rest of Yugoslavia. An option for a territorial split of Kosovo — now much favoured by the Serbs — was not on the table, he insisted.

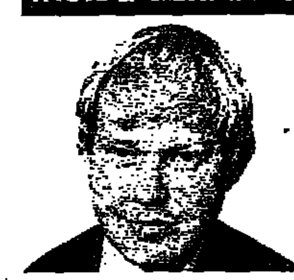
"There are no maps here, and that's the big difference with the Dayton conference for Bosnia," he said. "But I can't rule it out for next week."

The splendours of Rambouillet, a favourite haunt for both Louis XVI and Napoleon, were a world away from the blighted Balkan province. Speaking on his mobile phone while jogging off a heavy lunch, one source described a buffet of salmon mousse, dozens of salads, hot dishes of prawns, and a beef casserole, chocolate mousse and "a wide selection of other puddings".

It was quite possible for the Kosovo Liberation Army team and the Serbs to bump into one another while heading for this feast, although their negotiating rooms were separated. The Franco-British delegation that set up the conference insisted that no provocative insignia or imagery be used by either side.

Kohl's vision in jeopardy as his party looks to the right

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The other day the ex-Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, was tucking into a slap-up meal at his favourite Bonn restaurant, Il Punto, with Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister. On the other side of the room, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, was also enjoying his food.

In some ways, Il Punto has become the canteen of the German political class. Suddenly an emissary interrupted Herr Kohl — Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, would be honoured if his predecessor and Professor Prodi could come around for a conversation that evening. Herr Kohl is not a man to refuse a second dinner and was soon on his way.

This is by way of explaining what Herr Kohl is up to. While he broods over his memoirs, he has become an informal international consultant taking calls from Bill Clinton and Jacques Santer. But he is also a backbencher who makes occasional appearances at meetings of the Christian Democratic leadership. Banquo's ghost in Bonn. Naturally, this is slowing down the debate about whether dumping the Kohl legacy is the necessary precondition for scrambling back to power.

How to resuscitate German Christian democracy, whether to inject it with a dose of Thatcher-style conservatism, is the most intriguing riddle in Bonn. Will the Opposition follow the siren call of Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, and become more Eurosceptical? Will it break with the German consensus on Europe? Will it lurch towards the right, take on a more clearly contoured national conservatism?

These questions lurked behind yesterday's Hesse state elections, which were perhaps the first, indirect voter verdict on Herr Schröder's Social Democrat-Green Government. The Social Democrats and Greens lost heavily, and if early projections are reliable may lose power in the region. For the Christian Democrats, who emerged as the strongest party under Roland Koch, the vote could mark a watershed.

Herr Koch — who has the charisma of a block of wood — had talked up the "threat" of foreigners being granted double citizenship. That, and unemployment, was enough to whip up support. If the Christian Democratic campaign for other regional elections is fuelled by an anti-immigration mood, Wolfgang Schäuble, the party's national leader, will be fatally compromised. So will his efforts to keep some of the policy continuities from the Kohl era. Next year Christian Democrats must work out who will challenge Herr Schröder in 2002. The best bet now is that Herr Stoiber will get the job.

Some serious groundwork has to be completed before a Bavarian can lead Germany from Prussian Berlin. Herr Stoiber has to find themes on truly national causes. One is the question of immigration. It was Herr Stoiber who forced the pace on the current nationwide petition against government plans to extend citizenship rights to long-term foreign residents.

So far more than one million Germans have signed their opposition to the draft law. The tone around the trestle-tables set up in shopping precincts by the Christian Democrats is nasty. Signatories questioned about their motives often spit out xenophobic drivel. Herr Stoiber's other big cause is Europe — hostility to Agenda 2000, to any tinkering with the common agricultural policy, worries about rapid eastward enlargement, contempt for Brussels bureaucracy and fraud, and a very obvious reluctance to celebrate the euro.

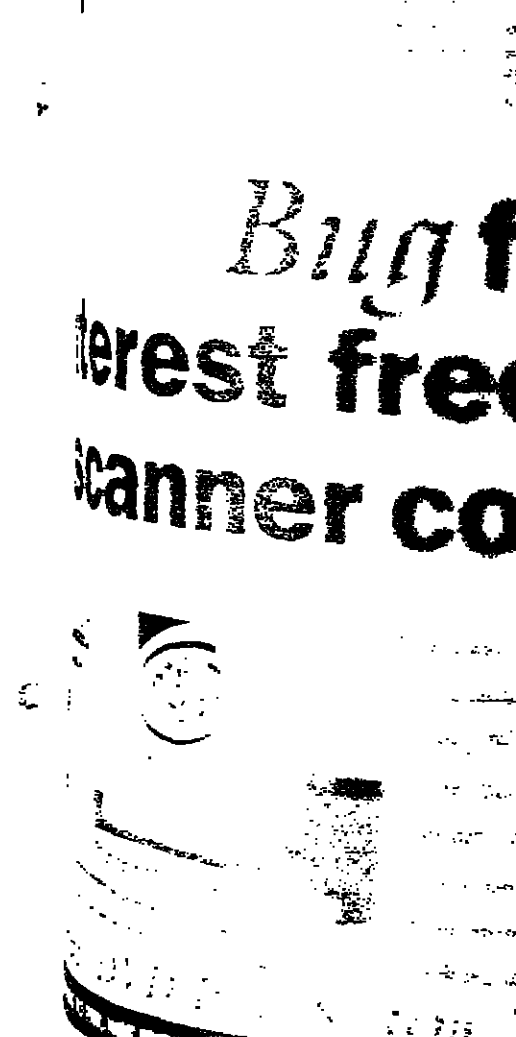
After the Hesse vote, the Christian Democrats will start gearing up for the European elections. Then it will become clear how quickly the party is willing to drop Herr Kohl overboard in the pursuit of voters. The unspoken assumption is that it was Herr Kohl who lost the last election. Soon this view will be spoken out loud and we will see how much of the Kohl European vision survives. Meantime, I shall be keeping my eyes open at Il Punto.

Vatican is accused by shot Guard's mother

Rome: The mother of a Swiss Guardsman who the Vatican says shot his commander and committed suicide accused Vatican officials yesterday of covering up the truth in their final report, to be released today, which declares the case "shelved" (Richard Owen writes).

Mugette Baudat-Tornay, who lives in Switzerland, said she had "documentary proof" that her son, Vice-Corporal Cedric Tornay, had been killed with two others as part of a "Vatican plot."

She said she had been threatened by "emissaries from Rome", who warned her to accept the official version of the tragedy and halt her own investigations. Colonel Alois Estermann, 44, his Venezuelan wife Gladys, 49, and Tornay, 23, were found dead from gunshot wounds inside the Vatican last May.



Old enemies come together to grieve



Christopher Walker reports from Amman on the problem posed by a gathering of some 40 heads of state

ON OTHER PAGES
Young queen 12
Hussein's legacy 13
Leading article 21
Obituary 23



Jordanian mourners outside the Hussein Medical Centre in Amman express their grief after hearing the news of King Hussein's death yesterday. Photographs: Chris Harris



EXTRAORDINARY security precautions will be in place for the burial this morning of King Hussein, an event to be attended by at least 40 heads of state and described by one official as "the diplomatic funeral of the century".

Although President Saddam Hussein of neighbouring Iraq is not expected to attend, Iraqi representatives and those from other radical regimes — perhaps even Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya — will take their places behind the cortège with Prince Charles, Tony Blair, President Clinton and a prominent delegation of Israelis including Binyamin Netanyahu, the hardline Prime Minister. Mr Netanyahu's presence has already been denounced angrily by Jordanian opposition politicians.

"The real threat is the large number of Iraqi agents; maybe thousands are known to operate inside Jordan and might want a chance to take revenge on the two leaders who recently ordered the latest bombing of Baghdad in Operation Desert Fox," said one Western security expert.

He added: "Islamic extremists inside Jordan are not expected to cause trouble, out of respect for the dead King. But for the Iraqis, it is probably the only chance they will ever have of having both Clinton and Blair in their sights. Frankly, it is going to be a security nightmare."

> ‘Gaddafi is one of those who could surprise us all’

Diplomats were comparing the funeral to that in Cairo in 1981 for Anwar Sadat after his assassination by Muslim gunmen. Then security fears were so great that the besuited world leaders were called on to jog, rather than walk, in an attempt to reduce the chances of an attack.

Apart from the two Western leaders most closely identified with the campaign to topple Saddam, the other main security concern will surround the unusually large party of Israelis who have announced their desire to pay their last respects to an Arab leader universally admired by Jews.

Leading the party from Jerusalem will be President Weizman. Apart from the Prime Minister — whose attitude to peace was often roundly attacked by the late Jordanian monarch — other Israelis will include Ariel Sharon, the Foreign Minister, Dan Tichon, the Parliamentary Speaker, and Yitzhak Shamir, the hawkish former Prime Minister.

Shimon Peres, the former leader of the Labour Party, and his successor, Ehud Barak, a former chief of staff and commander who carried out operations behind Arab lines, will attend.

"You will have among the mourners Israelis and representatives of many of the countries with which they are still technically at war," said one Arab diplomat.

"We do not know the exact identities of all the delegations and Gaddafi is one of those who could surprise us all — his son was here in person last week to pay his respects to [then Crown Prince] Abdullah," he added.

Arab leaders have announced their intention of attending, including Egypt's President Mubarak, who as Sadat's successor is a number one target for many Islamic fundamentalists, and Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

As with the Jerusalem funeral in 1995 of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, when King Hussein was one of the most prominent mourners, the secret services of various countries will be on the ground in force to protect their own leaders and to support the heavy Jordanian security presence.

Apart from Mr Blair, who yesterday said the late monarch was "a thoroughly decent and kind man", other European leaders will include President Chirac of France, accompanied by his wife, Bernadette, as well as Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister.

President McAleese of Ireland, President Klestil of Austria and Adolph Ogi, Switzerland's Vice-President, will also attend. The office of the Czech President said that Vaclav Havel hoped to attend, despite recent ill health.

The world's remaining royalty will also be strongly represented. Prince Charles will represent the Queen, whose official visit to Jordan in 1984 was dogged by bomb threats and one attack by the Abu Nidal terror organisation. The whole of the immediate Spanish Royal Family will be present. Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands also will attend, as well as King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium.

> ‘Mubarak, as Sadat's successor, is seen as a number one target’

Iran did not announce its intentions, but issued a broadside against the new Jordanian King as "inexperienced" for claims in his first press interview that Tehran remained a threat to some Gulf states.

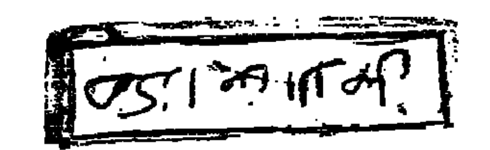
King Hussein will be buried before noon prayers at the Hashemite burial ground within the walls of the Royal Palace in Amman — within 24 hours of his death at 11.43am local time on Sunday. The King will be buried next to his father, King Talal, and grandfather, King Abdullah, shrouded in a simple white cloth, in accordance with Islamic custom.

His mortal remains will first be transported in a coffin, draped in the Jordanian flag atop an armoured vehicle, to the family cemetery. The coffin will be carried the last few yards to the burial site, probably by male members of the Royal Family before the body is interred to a 21-gun salute.

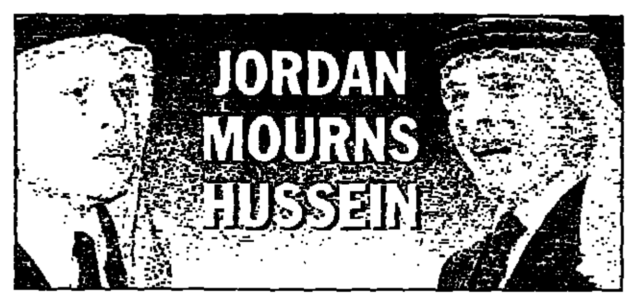


LINKS

www.go.com.jo/QNoorjo/welcome.html — Queen Noor's home page.
www.kinghussein.gov.jo/library.html — King Hussein's speeches and letters.



Young Queen will need her healing touch



Christopher Walker profiles the new King's respected wife, who is a pioneer of charitable causes


Queen Rania with Prince Hussein, her elder son, who was born to her and Abdullah in 1994

THE accession of King Abdullah II to the Hashemite throne has also thrust into the spotlight his Palestinian wife, Rania. Photogenic, highly intelligent and modest, at 28 she seems destined to become an international role model like Hussein's widow, Queen Noor, and to be seen as a successor to the mantle of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, as a dazzling royal involved in charitable causes.

As well as having a crucial role as a Palestinian in helping to unify a nation whose population is uncomfortably divided between the 60 per cent majority of Palestinian descent and the 40 per cent East Bank Arabs of Beduin tribal stock, Queen Rania will also have to mend the internal divisions in the ruling family worsened by the palace intrigues which scarred the last months of Hussein's 47-year reign.

"It will be the task of Rania to try to bring the relatives of the late King together and to try to heal the breaches that led to feuds deeply damaging to the future of the kingdom," said an Amman businessman. "She will have succeeded if she can dampen the rumours about jealousy and family promotion that have become part of our life these last weeks."

Being fully of Arab blood and also a Muslim from a well-established family that originated in the West Bank town of Tulkarm and later moved, like so many enterprising Palestinian families, to Kuwait, Queen Rania is being compared with Hussein's third wife, Alia, also a beautiful Palestinian with West Bank roots, who died in a helicopter crash in 1977.

Unlike Princess Muna (née Toni Gardiner), the Ipswich-born mother of the new King, and Queen Noor, previously Lisa Halaby, daughter of an American family of Lebanese descent, Queen Rania will not have the handicap of being regarded as foreign.

Rania al-Yassin was born on August 31, 1970, in Kuwait where her father was a doctor. After the 1991 Gulf War, like most of the 300,000 Palestinians then living in the oil-rich emirate, the al-Yassin family was forced to leave after being accused of co-operating with the Iraqi occupiers. They moved to Jordan.

"Rania met Abdullah through mutual acquaintances in Amman and immediately changed his life, persuading him to abandon the fast living for which he had been previously known," said one Jordanian source. "At the time, she had been thinking of marrying someone else, but with the Prince it was an instant love match."

Since their wedding on June 10, 1993, at a glittering ceremony presided over by Hussein, the couple have had two children, Hussein, born in 1994, and Iman, in 1996. "Rania is one of the most intelligent members of the Royal Family, well versed and genuinely interested in world literature — when I met her we had a long conversation about Dostoevsky," said Toujan Faisal, a leading member of the Opposition and, until she lost her seat in 1997, Jordan's only woman MP.

Mrs Faisal added: "Many Jordanians are very happy that their new Queen is a serious-minded but very pretty Arab. Noor was seen as too Westernised, too ambitious for her son Hamzah, and much too into the glitzy world of lavish spending and Western fashion for the Queen of a sober Muslim nation."

Queen Noor's dutiful and touching attention to her dying husband did much to silence her opponents. But Mrs Faisal, an acerbic critic of the Royal Family, said: "In the West, we know that Queen Noor is something of a glamour figure, much admired in the media. Here in Jordan, men and women alike found her not really part of the nation like Rania will be."

As well as being regarded as a good mother, Queen Rania has raised eyebrows and won praise from the less conservative members of Jordanian society by establishing a help system for battered and abused children, standing up for children's rights and tackling issues often regarded as taboo.

As the struggle for the succession intensified behind the scenes, Rania had to endure rumours spread by backers of her rivals, the Pakistan-born Princess Sarvath, the widely disliked wife of the deposed Crown Prince Hassan, 51, and Queen Noor, who was promoting the idea of her 18-year-old son, Hamzah, becoming heir apparent.

She brushed off the rumours and managed to blend her traditional background with a modern image befitting a new generation of Hashemite royals by being seen eating with her family in Amman's Hard Rock Café. "She is a very intelligent young woman, kind and unaffected, as members of the al-Yassin family often are," said one Amman-based diplomat.

For the outside world, the most poignant images of her came on January 19 at Amman's Marka airport when the King returned after six months of a supposedly successful cancer treatment at the controls of his plane and she was seen on television wiping away tears. "They were tears of joy," a close friend said. "Like all of us at the time, she thought the King had managed to beat his cancer."


PAUL ROGERS

The Buckingham Palace flag flying at half mast yesterday for King Hussein

World hails King whose majesty was of the spirit

By Damian Whitworth in Washington and Chris Broadhurst

REACTION

KING HUSSEIN'S death was mourned by world leaders across religious and political boundaries.

Tony Blair said the King was "a remarkable man, a man of courage and integrity; but above all a man of extraordinary inner strength and humility. We thank him for his life, for his work, his dedication to peace."

Baroness Thatcher said: "No one can ever take his place. He will have a very distinguished place in history."

President Clinton said the King was a magnificent man whose nobility came from his character not his title. "Many times his life was threatened but each brush with mortality ennobled him. He grew in wisdom and so did Jordan. He grew in stature and so did Jordan."

Mr Clinton singled out his determination to ensure that a Middle East peace deal was signed at the Wye summit last year. "It was not going too well and he came out and within a few minutes changed the tenor of the meeting. The smallest man in the room was the largest. The frailest, the strongest. The man with the least time reminded us that we were working not just for ourselves but for eternity. Today my friend is in paradise and God has welcomed home a faithful servant."

Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, said: "He was the leader of the smallest country with the smallest population and the least resources of all the nations participating in the peace process, but through his diplomacy he demonstrated what leadership and moral conviction can achieve."

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, said: "The world mourns the passing of a King whose true majesty found expression in a lifelong struggle to bring peace to the ordinary men and women of the Middle East."

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, said he was "a man of courage and fidelity [who] devoted his reign to the pursuit of development and security for his country".

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, said he had acted with "wisdom, farsightedness and tireless personal commitment".

Israel mourns a 'loyal friend'

From Dina Shiloh in Tel Aviv

THE Israeli Prime Minister called a special Cabinet meeting to discuss all the consequences of the King's death, and Israel's elections, set for May 17, may be postponed.

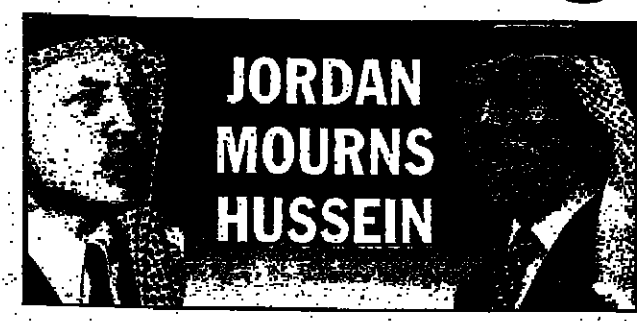
Afterwards Binyamin Netanyahu said: "The Government and people of Israel bow their heads in grief over the passing of King Hussein, a courageous leader, a loyal friend, a maker of peace in Israel. King Hussein was one of the few leaders who is recognised, even in his lifetime, as an historic figure.

"On a more personal level, there was no one more gracious, considerate and kind. No one more hospitable or generous ... We are certain his son, Abdullah, will continue in his way and strengthen the peace between us."

President Weizman said: "King Hussein was one of the great leaders of the 20th century ... We in Israel and all in the Middle East have a duty to follow his path of peace." Ehud Barak, the Opposition leader, said the King "took part in the wars against Israel, but the moment he realised there would be no stability and security in the region he jumped into the cold water and made peace."

Abdullah vows to preserve legacy

By Christopher Walker in Amman



THE Middle East moved into an uncertain era yesterday when its longest-serving ruler, King Hussein of Jordan, was pronounced dead from lymphatic cancer and was succeeded by his untested eldest son, King Abdullah II.

Looking uncannily like his father, his head swathed in a red-and-white chequered *keffiyeh*, the new half-British King appeared on television to lead a shattered nation in mourning soon after his father's official death at 11.43am.

He called for unity in a desert kingdom divided almost equally between Palestinians and tribal Arabs. He also pledged to maintain his father's policies, which included the 1994 peace with Israel widely unpopular among ordinary Jordanians but regarded as vital for stability in a region whose leaders are becoming increasingly elderly and unwell.

All eyes in the Middle East will be focused on the new King in the coming months to see whether he deviates from his father's legacy.

In one recent interview in the London-based *al-Hayat* newspaper, for example, King Abdullah was quick to emphasise that Iran remained a threat to some Gulf states. Tehran described him as a rank amateur, insisting that "his position will change when he gains more experience".

The novice 37-year-old leader of a country sandwiched precariously between Israel and the Arab dictatorships of Iraq and Syria, a former Special Forces commander with only two weeks' experience as heir apparent, sat under a huge portrait of his father. He read slowly and haltingly in broken Arabic — a legacy of his English mother, Princess Muna, and an education in Britain and the United States.

The new King was described by many tear-stained Jordanian officials as "a chip off the old block", who would be helped by the old guard to overcome his diplomatic and economic inexperience.

In his moving address, delivered while many Jordanians wept in the streets and stared in disbelief at television screens, Jordan's new leader described Hussein as a "father and brother to all of you" and pledged: "We will preserve Hussein's legacy by building a strong Jordan, and I ask everyone to remain united in their loyalty, like one family."

In an impressive show of family unity after weeks of rumours, feuds and palace intrigue, the new King stood close during the televised swearing-in ceremony to his uncle, Prince Hassan, 51, who was deposed from the position of Crown Prince after 34 years in one of the last acts of the late King, who accused him of abusing power.

The two later embraced warmly, signalling that Prince Hassan is likely to stay on in some senior advisory capacity, rather than go into voluntary exile with his family in England, as had been reported by Israel television.

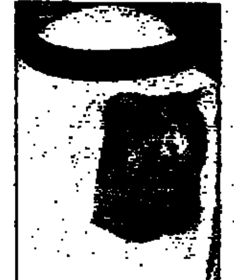
"The Hashemites have united behind Abdullah. That is what the late, great King would have wanted," claimed one official as hundreds of foreign journalists besieged Jordan's main hotel, the Amman Intercontinental, in an attempt to gain accreditation for today's state funeral.

Although Hussein's demise was a foregone conclusion once he was placed on a life-support machine last week, 4.6 million Jordanians appeared totally unprepared, and were plunged into mass public grief, uncannily reflected in the weather which blanketed Amman in a rare, and clammy, winter fog. "I love him more than my family. It is like losing a father," said a 23-year-old accountant, Mohammed Ahram, one of 2,000 people who had gathered outside the gates of the medical centre where the late King was taken after his return from failed cancer treatment in the US. Within hours of the death, a 40-day mourning period began, black flags went up on buildings and Muslims and Christians prayed in the streets.


REUTERS

King Abdullah, speaking on television last night, calls for unity between Jordan's Palestinians and tribal Arabs

MIDDLE EAST'S AILING LEADERS



Saudi Arabia
King Fahd

The Saudi leader took the throne on June 3, 1982 — on the death of his half-brother, King Khaled — as the fifth sovereign of a state founded in 1932. He suffered a stroke in 1995 and has handed over the day-to-day running of the Government to Crown Prince Abdullah.

Palestinian Authority
Yassir Arafat

Yassir Arafat became Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1969 and President of the Palestinian Authority in 1996. Increasingly frail of late, rumours began in 1997, denied by Palestinian officials, that he is suffering from Parkinson's disease. The 69-year-old Mr Arafat has never groomed a successor.

Syria
President Assad

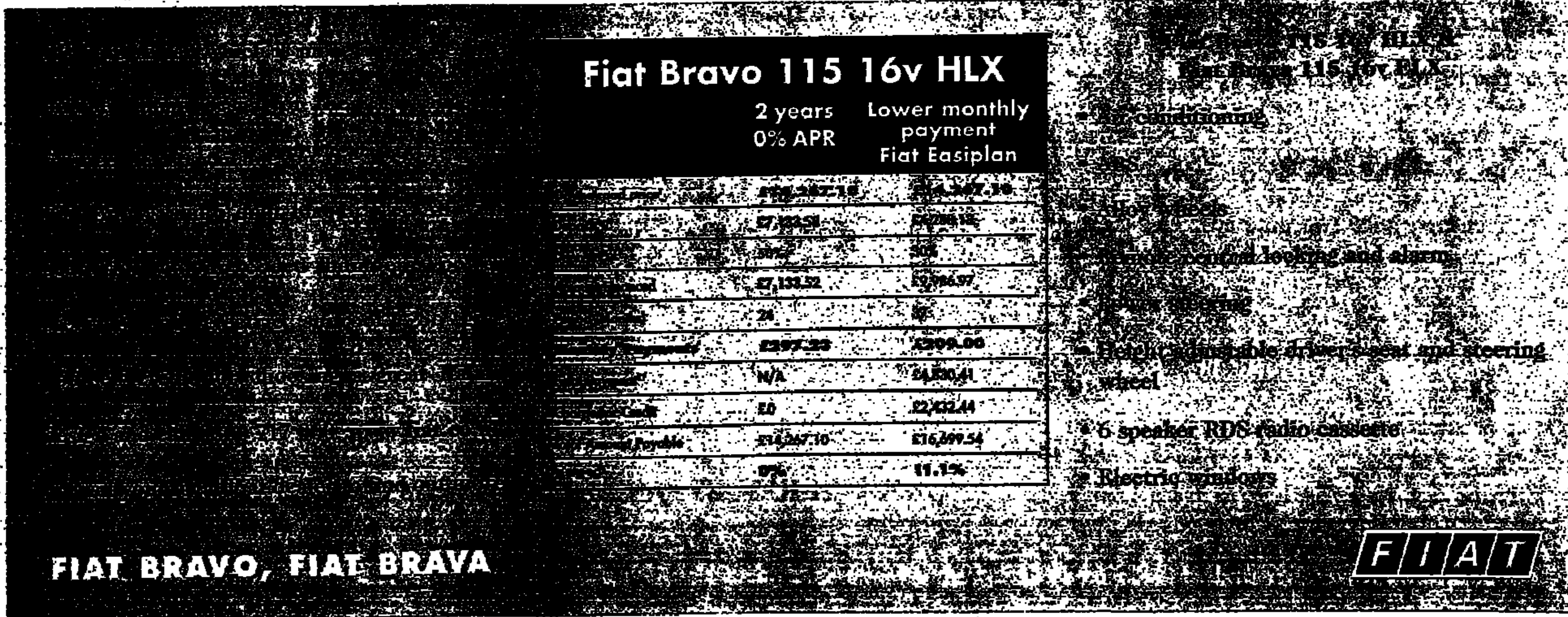


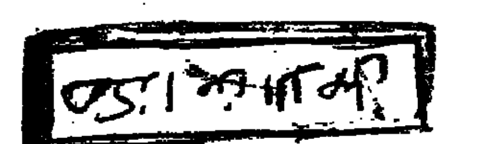
The Syrian leader has ruled since he took power in a 1970 coup. Long the subject of health speculation, the 68-year-old Hafez al-Assad had been grooming his son Bassel as successor until he died in a car crash in 1994. His other son, Bashar, has a role in affairs of state.

Iraq
President Saddam Hussein

Saddam, 61, came to power in July 1979, succeeding the sick Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr. Still in power despite disastrous wars — against Iran from 1980 to 1988, and the US and Allied Forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq in 1991. America and Britain have made increasingly clear their determination to bring about his overthrow. But there is no obvious successor and many fear there could be civil war if he goes.







MEN'S FASHION 1999-2000

Menswear: shaken



Designers are giving the traditional male look a new twist. **Roger Tredre** reports. Photographs by **Chris Moore**

The fashion world can be a rough, tough place. You see some shocking sights on the catwalk. But after several years in the front line, I thought nothing could hurt me. I was wrong. The American woman sitting next to me went pale. She leant over and hissed in my ear: "If my husband wore something like that, I would divorce him."

Before us strode a young man dressed in a tight, black stretch catsuit, over which he appeared to be wearing a small tent — but with the tent poles still attached, so his arms were pinned back, unable to move freely. It was, we agreed, the stuff of nightmares.

These sorts of clothes give designer fashion a bad name. Thankfully, the tent (from Walter Van Beirendonck) proved to be an unfair representation of current trends in men's fashion, as shown on the autumn-winter 1999-2000 catwalks. For the most part, designers are working hard to produce sensible clothes. For every silly idea, there are a dozen perfectly reasonable ones.

Indeed, in the week that Simpson's of Piccadilly — a purveyor of traditional British tailoring — was closing its doors, Paul Smith was doing his best to keep tradition alive: tweed suits and flannel shirts, cashmere coats and cavalry-twill trousers, hand-embroidered shirts and top-stitching on jackets. And not a tent pole in sight.

In essence, these clothes were not so distant from the kind of clothes sold by Simpson's. The difference lay in the fabrics — drill shirts washed soft, jackets in superfine flannels — and the details: mismatching buttons, multicoloured linings. Paul Smith shakes up the classic British male wardrobe, which is why he is our most successful designer.

Smith, who shows twice a year on the catwalk in Paris, summed up the theme of his new collection in one word: individuality. To make the point, he had thrown into the show a selection of second-hand clothes, including a knitted waistcoat found in a thrift shop. "Our lives are so full of technology these days — faxes and mobile phones and e-mails," said Smith. "I wanted to make an individualistic statement, with lots of hand-made and hand-embroidered touches. Never mind the technology. We're still human beings."

Despite a great deal of interest in so-called synthetic-based "technical" fabrics in recent seasons, designers are rediscovering the traditional virtues of tailoring and luxury fabrics. Millennial fashion will be reassuringly familiar: *la mode masculine* is not suddenly going to lift off into intergalactic spacewear.

There was a real sense of occasion running through the men's shows. Here were the collections which take us through to the year 2000. In keeping with the spirit of the occasion, every designer had a go at producing the perfect outfit for New Year's Eve. The best, by far, came from Yves Saint Laurent in the form of a lean-cut black tuxedo worn over a tulle shirt sprinkled with sequins. Camp, but so cool.

After this winter's plethora of grey, there's a lot of black on the way for next. In Milan, the designers at least threw in bright accents of colour on knitwear and shirts: tomato red, orange, yellow. But at London Men's Fashion Week, I sat through three shows in a row dominated by black. Men look good in black, but we could have done with some light relief.

Here's a run-through of the key names in European men's fashion. In Italy, all the attention remains focused on Prada and Gucci, which stand at opposite ends of the fashion spectrum. Prada, with its functional anoraks and casual jackets, is a universe apart from flower-power Gucci, all velvet jackets and floral-embroidered jeans.

In Paris, the dominant forces are Paul Smith, Belgium's romantic Dries Van Noten, and Yves Saint Laurent, undergoing a menswear renaissance under the direction of the young designer Hedi Slimane.

In London, John Richmond and John Rocha are the biggest names on the catwalk. Both made a strong impact at the fledgeling London Men's Fashion Week with restrained and wearable collections, Richmond mixing traditional tweeds and herringbones with funnel-neck jumpers and simple sports shapes, Rocha adding touches of fake fur to coats.

The new menswear is exceptionally comfortable and practical. There's a free-and-easy spirit in the air, with sportswear influences mixed with more formal dressing. This was most marked at Giorgio Armani, who has caught the sports bug in a big way and is shortly to launch a new Giorgio Armani Sport label. But all the big fashion houses are also joining in. How about a pair of Hermès trousers with a drawstring waist? Or an Yves Saint Laurent jumpsuit?

Everything comes with pockets: bellows pockets on jackets from Paul Smith; deep back pockets on trousers from Burro, a young British label; big, high pockets on shirts from Belgium's Dries Van Noten. They must be making room for all the mobile phones which bleeped throughout every show. Or the portable CD players that everyone carried on the Eurostar.

In this ever-so-practical dawn of the millennium, designers also produced plenty of shoulder and hip bags, following the lead of Prada, which started the trend. The best of the rest were shown off the catwalk, notably from Mandarina Duck, a Bologna-based name, which came up with strap-on bags that curve across the front of the body. With perfect timing, Samsonite — a company best known for suitcases — also launched its first clothing collection, including blousons complete with travel clocks, and padded jackets with built-in pillows.

Catching the all-purpose mood, designers made clothes that were super-versatile. At Louis Vuitton, Marc Jacobs produced tubular cashmere jumpers with detachable roll-necks. The innovative Dutch designer Alexander van Slobbe, whose label is called So, showed reversible jackets, smart and tailored on one side, sporty and casual on the other. Neil Barrett, former designer at Prada, showing his first solo collection, worked in padding for jumpers to accentuate the chest — which means that none of us needs bother going to the gym.

By the end of last week, my American colleague was much happier. With the exception of the tented cat suit, she — and I — had emerged from the trenches unscathed.

Yves Saint Laurent: lean-cut black tuxedo over a sequined shirt



Armani: sportswear mixed with more formal dressing



Prada: shoulder bags and a functional look

Making up to Miss Moss

Lisa Armstrong
FASHION EDITOR

GIVEN that I'd only slunk in to do an interview, it was a little disconcerting to have a make-up artist (especially one who was responsible for the luminous Kate Moss cover of British *Vogue* last summer) leap up at me brandishing pots of concealer.

I'd like to believe that Sharon Dowsett, the make-up artist in question, was so excited about the new wonder product she had discovered that she wanted to try it out on everyone, and that it had nothing to do with my skin being so grey that I looked consumptive.

Anyway, since the transformation was so rapid and effective, I thought the least I could do was to share the secret. Lancome's Palette Mix (subtitle: complexion kit and unleashed on the public on February 15) is a compact of three colours, dark, medium and a pale highlighter, which can be applied over moisturiser to the bits of your face that need them, thereby obviating the need for foundation, which, as any casual observer of beauty trends knows, is over, sweetie.

Dowsett used a tiny smearing of the medium shade under my eyes and round the base of my nose, the highlighter in the corners of my eyes, and the darkest shade to contour under my cheeks.

Four minutes later, not quite Miss Moss but no longer consumptive. So there you have it, invest £15, blend well and fret not that you didn't make it to the Caribbean this winter. Unfortunately, the make-up artist isn't included.

■ FROM the start, *Wallpaper* magazine has had a committed, if select, readership. This is glossy lifestyle with fully comprehensive attitude: *Wallpaper* readers are instructed on every aspect of their lives, from how to choose a stylish holdall to how to whip up a chic onion dip.

Now acolytes of the minimalist style magazine are taking turns to host *Wallpaper* parties which replicate the magazine's fashion shoots, incorporating every detail on the page, from that fabulous Clements Ribeiro velvet top to the walnut and Lucite tables, from the Gucci ceramic bowl down to the menus of spicy fried pecans and goldfish puffs.

Naturally, the *Wallpaper* staff are thrilled. "Hopefully," says an editorial team member, "they are being knowingly ironic rather than just sad." In the Seventies these people would have been miming along to *The Rocky Horror Show*. From camp kitsch to camp design in 20 years. Who said the human race wasn't making progress?



■ "ARE injuries the season's must-have accessory, then?" inquired one fashion editor at the opening of Sotheby's arts exhibition last Thursday. It's true that the doyenne of fashion writers, Suzy Menkes, is still on crutches after an accident last autumn, and that the show's curator, Janice Blackburn, is nursing a wounded elbow. But notwithstanding the forests cut down last season to relay the news that Alexander McQueen had sent a model with prosthetic legs down his catwalk, self-maiming has still to gain what you might call mainstream currency. What is chic, however, is adorning your injuries appropriately. The features editor of *Harper's Bazaar* set a sterling example when she made a sling for her disloca[ted] shoulder out of an old pa[sh]mina. Bandages just d[o] come in the same colours.

■ TALKING of *pashminas* [I] know that certain inside[rs] have pronounced them cliché but I'm still attached to min[e]. So when I left one on Eurosta[r] I got on to Lost Property. Th[is] was more taxing than yo[u] might think, as Eurostar on[ly] deals in recorded messages. [I] outlined my pashmina's vit[al] statistics (pale blue, cashmer[e]) and waited . . . and waited . . . for a response.

Eventually, François fro[m] Paris returned my call. The[y] had found a blue shawl but [it] was pashmina, not cashmere. "It's mine," I said. "Why didn['t] you say it was pashmina?" he asked. Because, I wanted t[o] say, I didn't think everyon[e] would know what pashmin[a] was. "Well, you say it's your[s] but we'll need proof." Whe[n] Lost Property tyrants g[et] supercilious about fibre content, it's time to move on to something really recherché.

MEN'S FASHION 1999-2000

not stirred



John Richmond: mixing the traditional with a modern, casual look

TRENDS





Paul Smith: shaking up the classic British male wardrobe but working hard to produce sensible clothes

STYLE FILE

SOLANGE AZAGURY-PARTRIDGE
Jewellery designer

Describe your own personal style
It may look understated but it's actually quite luxurious and flashy.

What period in fashion do you love?
The Nineties. There are no rules, you simply wear what you want.

What accessory/piece of clothing can you not live without?
One of my rings. If I leave my house without one I feel totally bare.

What are your pet hates regarding fashion?
Being a victim and the continued love of the skinny.

What do you think of the current fashion trends?
I love the bohemian, multicultural, ethnic look.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought?
My red Venetian chandelier.

What is your favourite shop?
The Cross in Notting Hill always has something to take my fancy.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift?
A Bentley Azure Coupé — the ultimate accessory.





Gucci goes for flower power, John Richmond favours a more restrained approach

AP PHOTO/APTN




Secret weapons of defence: left, Cheryl Mills, White House deputy counsel, begins her presentation at the Senate impeachment trial, and her colleague, Nicole Seligman, as she calls for the case against President Clinton to be dismissed

The women who seduced the Senate

A few weeks ago they were unknown outside Washington. Now the women defending Bill Clinton are the most famous female lawyers in the US. **Damian Whitworth** reports

In the august chamber of the United States Senate — where those attending the impeachment trial are ordered to keep silent "on pain of imprisonment" — the sight of two women giggling is enough to cause palpitations among the crustier members. But late on Saturday, as Bill Clinton's chief personal lawyer, David Kendall, picked through another interminable argument, two friends could be seen excitedly passing notes to each other. One would scribble away, slip the message to the other and wait with a look of anticipation. Then both would dissolve into fits of giggling.

Nicole Seligman and Cheryl Mills, the two women on President Clinton's defence team, were enjoying themselves. Like schoolgirls, whose attention begins to wander when the headmaster has embarked on another lecture, they couldn't help but start being silly.

It is hard to blame them. Barring any new developments, this week their client will be acquitted in what is only the second impeachment trial of a US President, and Seligman and Mills are being hailed as the stars of the solid defence performance. A few weeks ago they were unknown outside Washington legal circles. Now they are the most famous female lawyers in America.

The giggling began as Seligman, who has been dubbed "the President's Ally McBeal", relaxed after taking centre stage on the most dramatic day of the trial to present clips of Monica Lewinsky's videotaped evidence. The all-male Republican prosecution team had already been given first sightings of the video, but when Seligman came to the lectern, senators sat up straight and allowed their chins to ascend from their chests.

She cuts a striking figure: shoulder-length chestnut hair, strong cheekbones, a pale complexion, dark eye make-up and red lipstick. She wears suits immaculately tailored to her slim frame (on Saturday a plum frock coat with hemline well above the knee).

In action, she radiates quiet confidence, often resting her weight on one patent-leather foot while the other presses up and down as if pumping a piano pedal, as she emphasises her points. Simultaneously, she makes controlled gestures with disproportionately large hands; forefinger and thumb frequently pressed together as if conducting her audience. Her voice is surprisingly deep with a New York accent and a steady delivery that is not in the least schoolgirlish despite her youthful manner.

Cheryl Mills, at 33, is nine years younger than her colleague and must be the trendiest person ever to speak in the Senate. She favours white T-shirts beneath black jackets and long, split skirts or suits and wears little make-up. On her way to and from Capitol Hill she sports a leather jacket.

Her style of speaking is bold and passionate, almost melodramatic. When, in her first significant courtroom appearance, she attacked claims that Mr Clinton obstructed justice by manipulating his secretary, Betty Currie, her performance was lauded as virtuoso. She spoke slowly and laid on thick her passionate defence of Mr Clinton as a champion of civil rights. Senator Barbara Boxer said she was "moved to tears" and Senator Robert Torricelli said it was the finest speech he had heard on Capitol Hill.

Putting up a young, black woman to speak forcefully on the President's behalf after days filled with the singularly uncharismatic Republican prosecutors was clearly a masterstroke. Even those calling for Mr Clinton's head queued to congratulate Mills afterwards.

Of the two indisputably brilliant lawyers, Mills is the more extrovert, more passionate about her vocation. The daughter of an army officer, she had a comfortable, middle-class but peripatetic childhood before excelling at the University of Virginia and winning a scholarship to Stanford University Law School. Aged just 27, she took a junior position in the White House legal office after Mr Clinton won his first term and she became appreciated by the Clintons for what colleagues call her "combative" approach to defending them. The screen-saver on her computer reads: "The lioness is the hunter."

Such is Mills's passion that she has even been accused of perjury and obstruction of justice herself over allegations that she failed to give up documents that had been subpoenaed by a committee investigating the Clintons' use of a White House database. The investigation has still to be concluded.

Her closeness to the Clintons can be seen in her office where a huge poster of Michael Jordan hangs next to a picture of Mr Clinton asking the basketball player to sign it for her. She is good friends with two of the key figures in the Lewinsky saga: Mrs Currie and Vernon Jordan, Mr Clinton's confidant. Outside work she is dedicated to social work, volunteering for an organisation that tutors disadvantaged children. "She's buoyant and very infectious in the way she relates to people," says Douglas Eakeley, chairman of the Legal Services Corporation who shared a house with Mr Clinton at Yale, and has seen Mills's commitment to the President's agenda. "She is called to public service. She wants to contribute something," he says.

The offers to go into private practice, however, where she could rake in millions of dollars a year, may be hard to resist. While Mills earns a government salary of around $100,000, Seligman makes many times that in the private sector as a partner at Williams & Connolly, the firm which represents the Clintons in all their personal affairs.

From a family of highly successful New York attorneys, Seligman went to an exclusive private school and was top of her year at Harvard. Her best friend is Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, daughter of President John Kennedy — Seligman was a bridesmaid at her wedding — and she represents both Kennedy children. Hillary Clinton, who is a close friend, is understood to have been determined that Seligman had a central role in sorting out the mess her husband had made by having an affair. But Seligman, who refuses to give any interviews, remains an enigma in Washington. One certainty is that the girlish looks, that led people to mistake her for Oliver North's daughter when she defended him during the Iran-Contra affair, are misleading.

Kevin Baine, a fellow partner at Williams & Connolly, says that she may look a little like Ally McBeal but she is tougher than the TV lawyer. He calls her "the velvet hammer" because "she might seem a kind and gentle soul but she can be a warrior when that is called for".

Friends say that Seligman, who is single and lives in a smart flat on Washington's "Embassy Row", is witty and delightful company. It is rumoured that she has an on-off relationship with Eli Jacobs, a wealthy financier 20 years her senior and former owner of Baltimore Orioles baseball club. Friends joke that she has an "iron butt" because of the hours she spends at work.

George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former aide, calls Seligman "a cool woman in every sense of the word". He also nicknamed her the President's secret weapon.

After her very public performances in recent weeks she, like Mills, can never be called "secret" again.

'We believe that cloning will become as acceptable as IVF'

A childless couple want to break taboos. **Vanora Bennett** reports

Cloning gave the world Dolly the sheep. But would you want it to give you a child?

The revulsion that most people feel at this idea has so far kept Brave New World babies firmly in their test tubes, although technological advances continue that could one day allow infertile couples — or one partner, at least — to reproduce themselves by cloning.

Now, however, a British couple have broken one more taboo to say "yes" to the idea of having a cloned baby, a genetic carbon copy of one parent.

"At the moment everybody is frightened of cloning. That is a very good thing, because there are so many things we don't know about it. But there will come a point when cloning becomes acceptable, like IVF," Peter Blackburn says.

Mr Blackburn and his wife Ildiko are independent-minded computer experts in their early thirties who run their own small consultancies in Cambridgeshire. During their eight-year marriage they have gone through every kind of fertility treatment currently available. Nothing has worked.

They have an enviable lifestyle, a happy relationship and enough material possessions. But one thing is lacking. "We'd love to have a child," Mr Blackburn says. "It's not the be-all and end-all, but there is a special magic that a child brings to a couple."

Adoption is, for them, out of the question. They are determined that any offspring should be biologically linked to at least one of them.

Human cloning for reproductive purposes is illegal in Britain at present, under a law passed in 1990. But many countries have no specific legislation banning it. Meanwhile, research is so advanced that the Blackburns believe cloning may soon become as widely available as assisted fertilisation. They are eager to try it.

The Blackburns are not worried by the identity problems that could follow the creation of a duplicate human being. Peter's father was an identical twin, with genes identical to those of his brother. To Peter, who argues that his father and uncle have distinct personalities and lives, a clone is no different from a late-born artificial twin.

"I don't think there would be identity problems for any child like that," says Peter. "You'd be looking at a son or daughter. All it would have in common with its parents would be genetic structures. I'm not comfortable with the idea of 10,000 versions of myself. But whether technology can produce a child genetically identical to my wife or to me is not the issue. It's a child."

The sincerity of Peter Blackburn's wish for a child is unquestionable, but whether his belief that cloning could soon win public support is realistic remains to be seen. Horror at the notion of tampering with nature remains powerful.

Even countries that have yet to formulate laws on cloning have found that when research is made public, many citizens see cloning babies as nightmarish. In South Korea, for instance, controversy has surrounded scientists at Kyunghee University Hospital, who claimed in December to have conducted a successful human cloning experiment.

The Kyunghee scientists said that they had replaced the nucleus of a woman's egg with that of one of her body cells, cultivated the egg until it grew to an early embryonic stage, then destroyed the cloned tissue. News of the experiment was followed by furious debates and protest rallies.

The South Korean Government was caught off-guard but has since aligned itself with public opinion. The Korean Doctors' Association has cast doubt on the experiment's validity. A Bill to ban reproductive cloning is now before the South Korean parliament.

Elsewhere, scientists are agitating to be allowed to use human cloning — because they want to clone embryos to use the basic "stem" cells to research and treat illnesses. Dr Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, who created Dolly, has been discussing this with biotechnology companies and universities. The British Government is considering fine-tuning its 1990 law on embryology to allow such research. It has no plans to allow the cloning of entire human beings. But the willingness of the first members of the public to endorse reproductive cloning could be important in the debate. The Blackburns hope that if more people would admit that they were willing to try cloning, eventually it will become acceptable.

● Panorama: The First Human Clone. *BBC1 tonight at 10pm.*

BBC



The Blackburns are the first British couple to speak up in favour of human cloning



THEATRE

Irvine Welsh's shocker comes to London

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

OPERA

A provocative Rosenkavalier for Glasgow

PAGE 19



These girls are just slaves to the rhythm

CABARET: Michael Owen tries to find out what castanets have got to do with Fascinating Aida's new West End show

Two flights up a darkened staircase in a complex of rehearsal rooms, and the only sound to be heard was the rhythmic drilling of a set of castanets. I was in search of the three women who make up Fascinating Aida, but seemed instead to have stumbled upon Paco Peña.

Through two well-hidden doors a brightly lit studio revealed itself and there, alone in her percussive contemplation, Miss Adele Anderson swirled and spun gracefully as her fingers rapped out a sensuous series of rat-a-tat-tat riffs.

So the first clue, as the trio reach the final stages of preparation for their West End return, appeared to be that sweet FA was hitting the flamenco trail. This turned out not to be the case, actually, but the expected and the unexpected are always swapping places when these three get together.

The studio began to fill up with the arrival of Dillie Keane, the founder of the group, and the third member, Issy van Randwyck, together with their pianist Sarah Travis and director Clarke Peters. This quintet have been locked together for a month now as they refine the new show, titled *Barefaced Chic*, that opens at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, tomorrow for a four-week season, followed by a three-month national tour.

It is two years since Fascinating Aida last played in London. Since then they have toured Australia and New Zealand, and made their long-awaited New York debut. They were no sooner home than they immediately started plotting *Barefaced Chic*, which will offer several new variations on the familiar Fascinating Aida formula, not least Keane abandoning her onstage piano-playing to take a fuller role in the proceedings. The new production will be presented as a show-within-a-show, beginning with the girls caught backstage in silhouette behind a transparent screen. That, give or take a few crucial elements like a theatre, costumes and lights, was roughly the point they had arrived at in their studio session two floors up in a former Soho laundry.

The usual detritus of rehearsal rooms — water bottles, coffee cups and a vast assortment of shoes — littered the floor and benches as Peters — who has just quit his role as lawyer Billy Flynn in the musical *Chicago* to direct the girls — announced they were to run Act I. The cast looked at each other as though the moment they had been putting off had at last arrived, and a Chekhovian gloom momentarily fell upon the room. "I tell you, this show's going to be a lot sadder than anything Chekhov wrote," confided Keane with mock pessimism.

> ‘I tell you, this show's going to be a lot sadder than anything Chekhov wrote’

She was, of course, entirely wrong. An hour later, the witnesses to this sneak preview were still damp-eyed from the wicked humour of their lyrics and the poignancy into which they can instantly switch. Those three-part harmonies, sometimes lilting, sometimes syncopated, now and again raunchy and rocking, seemed even more perfectly enmeshed.

The targets on the Fascinating Aida hitlist this year include Viagra — "We take a very positive view," says Keane — Jerry Springer, inspiring a catalogue of incestuous confessions, the literature of Cartland, Cooper and Conran, chequebook journalism, and genetically modified food, which last song Anderson delivers as a rumba salute to the chemically enhanced beetroot that becomes a West End star.

Although all three have careers outside Fascinating Aida — Van Randwyck in straight theatre, Anderson in jazz and Keane on radio — it is their joint enterprises that take precedence. "We are more than the sum of our parts," says Keane. "When we're together something organic happens. We grow as we go and, strangely, as we get older it seems to get easier rather than more difficult. But I might regret saying that."

They are even looking forward to life on tour, when they will travel the length and breadth of the land. "We love it," says Van Randwyck. "We climb in our blue Transit van, we always drive ourselves and we route the journey according to our favourite restaurants."

The New York debut last year won them a glowing set of reviews and a celebrity audience including Stephen Sondheim, Mike Nichols and Patti LuPone, who paid them the compliment of promptly drafting two of their songs into her own show.

Any nerves over such an important first night were dispelled in a haze of jet lag. "We flew from New Zealand to New York and went through so many time zones it was like Groundhog Day," says Keane. And Van Randwyck gives an insight into the thoroughness with which they research their material: "The first thing we did was go to the hairdresser to get our roots done, and that's where we picked up all the local gossip, which we immediately put in the show."

They found Australia less hospitable, Keane admits. "We'd been there ten years ago and enjoyed it but something's happened. They seem to have lost their national sense of humour. We arrived in Canberra when the Republican convention was on, which was not brilliant timing. They were anti all things English, couldn't wait to get rid of the Queen and if we mentioned the monarchy or did anything politically incorrect, they just sat there and groaned. New Zealand was more fun. We did our version of the haka and told them what we had in mind for Jonah Lomu."

Peters, who scored his own cabaret-style hit when he created *Five Guys Named Moe*, is directing them for the first time. "I believe this show is a departure for them, in terms of the way it is set, and I think they are very brave. We've had no differences of opinion; if something needs to be worked out, I ask them to look at it in an acting rather than a musical context."

When I left them, the sound of castanets followed me down the stairs. I crept back to see exactly what was going on. This time it was Van Randwyck snapping out the clacking Spanish beat — but then the door swung firmly closed. Tomorrow, all will be revealed.

● Barefaced Chic *is at the Haymarket (0171-930 8899) from tomorrow*

SIMON WALKER



Fascinating Aida, aka (clockwise from left) Issy van Randwyck, Adele Anderson and Dilly Keane

The real hip hop mother

IN THE week that her face graced the covers of both *Time* and *Rolling Stone* magazines, Lauryn Hill chose Brixton as the location of the only European show on her current world tour. Hill has played in Britain before, as one third of the Fugees, but this was her first solo show here, and one of her first live appearances anywhere since her album, *The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill*, elevated her to superstar status.

Still only 23, Hill is being hailed as the saviour and social conscience of hip hop, seemingly the one person who can keep the music "real" while actively rejecting the themes of violent aggression, misogyny and materialism with which the genre is now routinely blighted.

But if she was feeling the pressure she certainly didn't show it as she led a troupe of musicians, DJs, rappers and backing singers through a show that cleverly combined the spiritual with the sensual.

POP

Lauryn Hill
Brixton

Starting at a measured pace with her current single, *Ex-Factor*, she gradually upped the ante with a searing version of *Superstar*, followed by a perfectly judged trip down memory lane with the Fugees' theme *Fu-Gee-La* that sent the cheerful crowd into rhapsodies.

After a rambling sequence of fun and games she pulled the show back into focus with an emotionally charged performance of *To Zion*, a song dedicated to her son. But if she treated the word "mother" with greater respect than her gangsta-rap peers do, there was nothing compliant about her accusatory wordplay in *Doo Wop (That Thing)* or *Lost Ones*. "You gained the whole world for the price of your soul . . . /Wisdom is better than silver or gold," she snapped.

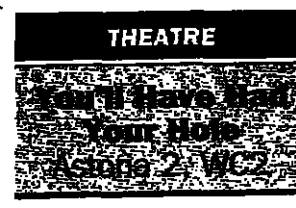
An encore of *Killing Me Softly* and *Everything Is Everything* provided a suitably upbeat finale to a show which straddled the divide between the street and the moral high ground as if the two had never drifted apart in the first place.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Violent — but fair

When Irvine Welsh's grim play premiered in Leeds a year ago many of my colleagues found themselves much agitated by the sight of (simulated) anal rape inflicted upon a captive chained and gagged inside a cage. The verbal abuse was condemned, as was some duff characterisation. Not a good evening, was the general opinion.

Welsh is said to have reworked the piece since then, and certainly the solitary woman in the cast has managed to become at least two-dimensional. But as the plot got under way and I adjusted myself to the sight of Tam Dean Burn's psychopathic homosexual baldie capering like Rumpelstiltskin around his victim, my surprised discovery was that the play so far was not bad.



Two novice hardmen have messily killed a third; to young Dex "It's a job", but the victim's death throes have haunted his accomplice, Docksey (*Kenneth Bryans*), until he feels compelled to trap Dex into explaining how he can remain so unaffected. Docksey's mad mate Jinks, the baldie, will squirm this revelation out of their prisoner, while Docksey revenges himself by sleeping with Dex's girl.

Now there is much in this sequence of events that is seriously flawed. How come the two captors became mates? Why is sexual abuse expected to bring a confession? Welsh also crosscuts from the undergound torture chamber to the scenes with the girl (Kirsty Mitchell), but largely fails to motivate these interruptions.

Directed by Ian Brown on a central arena where the lighting focuses in turn upon the cage and the girl's sofa bed, the two sex scenes coincide so that Docksey's cries with the girl relate to what Jinks is doing to her former boyfriend. Welsh's use of hypo needles at the end is similarly ingenious, although he cannot prevent us finally feeling more sympathy for Dex — a strong performance of pent-up fury by James Cunningham — than for anyone else.

JEREMY KINGSTON

No answer to this

PLUTO Productions' double bill of seldom-seen Strindberg and exotic Cocteau offers two psychological studies of wronged women. In Strindberg's *The Stronger* Mrs X discovers during afternoon tea that Miss Y has been having an affair with her husband. No, I haven't lost the programme: Strindberg has stripped away all unnecessary distractions.

Miss Y is silent throughout: the play throws the spotlight on the older woman's struggle to divine the truth, about herself and her marriage as well as her friend's betrayal. Casting about for the right response, first she taunts, then wonders if it was all her fault, then weakly declares she can learn from the experience. It's a curious blend of naturalism and expressionism.

Emile, the stop-out husband in Cocteau's *The Sound of Silence*, is similarly voiceless. His outwardly poised wife is going crazy cooped up in her hotel room night after night, waiting for him to come home from his mistress. When he finally does, she lets rip, only to find that he has fallen asleep.

The Stronger/The Sound of Silence
Grace, SW11

Despite taking the form of two voluble monologues, these plays are just as much about silence as words, which prove to be more or less wasted.

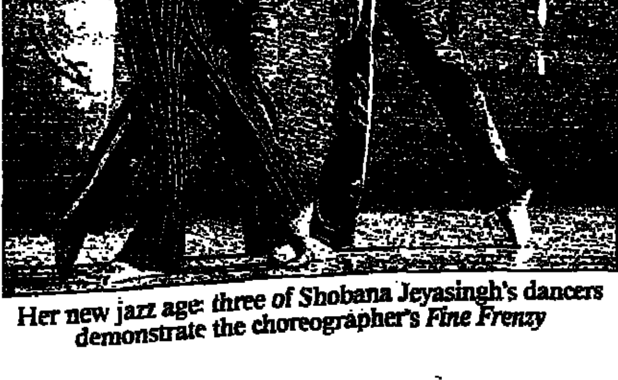
When the husband simply gets up and leaves, all his wife's protestations collapse into a humiliatingly wheedling plea for forgiveness. And although Mrs X goes down all the verbal avenues that might reveal her misplaced pride, her rival, for all her enigmatic silence, turns out the stronger.

Cocteau wrote *The Sound of Silence* as a showcase for Édith Piaf, and the Bulgarian actress Irina Diva, all vulnerable hauteur and flighty disdain, is certainly Piaf-esque. She gives a gutsily intense performance which is, though, too mannered and monotone. Christina Greatrex as Mrs X turns with eloquent ease from anger to anguish, although again it all sounds a bit pat.

The directors of both pieces could do with injecting some spontaneity into the two characters. But the pieces complement each other well, and their small subtleties suit the diminutive Grace space.

NIGEL CLIFF

DEE CONWAY



Her new jazz age: three of Shobana Jeyasingh's dancers demonstrate the choreographer's *Fine Frenzy*

Caught in a frenzy of change

DANCE

Shobana Jeyasingh
Brighton

Ten years after starting her company in 1989, Shobana Jeyasingh is marking her anniversary with a new double bill which revisits her past and points the way towards to her future. This revealing, if not wholly satisfying, package reminds us how far she has come as a choreographer, how startling and utterly transfixing her dances can be. Yet it also shows that she has reached the point where the rules she herself set out will have to be broken.

The double bill, premiered at the Gardner Arts Centre in Brighton on Thursday, opens with *Memory and Other Props*, a work which incorporates elements from a decade of dances but reimagines them with the benefit of hindsight and experience to create a wholly original new piece. Thus, the meticulous rhythmic purity of her early choreography, based on the classical Indian dance form of *bharata natyam*, is viewed through the more liberating sensuality and lyricism of her later work.

Jeyasingh looks back on her career with evident fondness and tranquillity, although she does allow fleeting, disquieting memories to disturb her meditation. Her six female dancers perform in a shadowy world, ideas half-formed and fuzzy like memory itself. The piece doesn't quite hold together on its own terms, but if you have been following Jeyasingh from the beginning it offers fascinating insight into her brilliant choreographic intellect.

The future is represented by *Fine Frenzy*, which comes with a commissioned score from the avant-garde jazzman Django Bates. Combining writing for the saxophone (played live by the Apollo Quartet) with taped sounds (traffic noise, church bells, shortwave transmissions and a child reading), Bates draws on the bustle of congested urban life to produce an unpredictable and stimulating score of great pace and atmosphere. Jeyasingh responds with choreography that draws on the same frenzy, animating her women in movement so agitated and illogical it doesn't know which way to turn. Athletic, muscular, introspective and rebellious, this is Jeyasingh as you have never seen her before.

Yet *Fine Frenzy* ultimately fails to prove its point because what the choreography wants and what the *bharata natyam*-trained female dancers can deliver are two different things. Jeyasingh is clearly champing at the bit to take full advantage of everything contemporary dance can offer (including a more varied technique and the added dynamic of male dancers), but that would mean drastic changes to her company. If the next ten years are to be as successful as the first ten, Jeyasingh has some hard choices to make.

DEBRA CRAINE

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

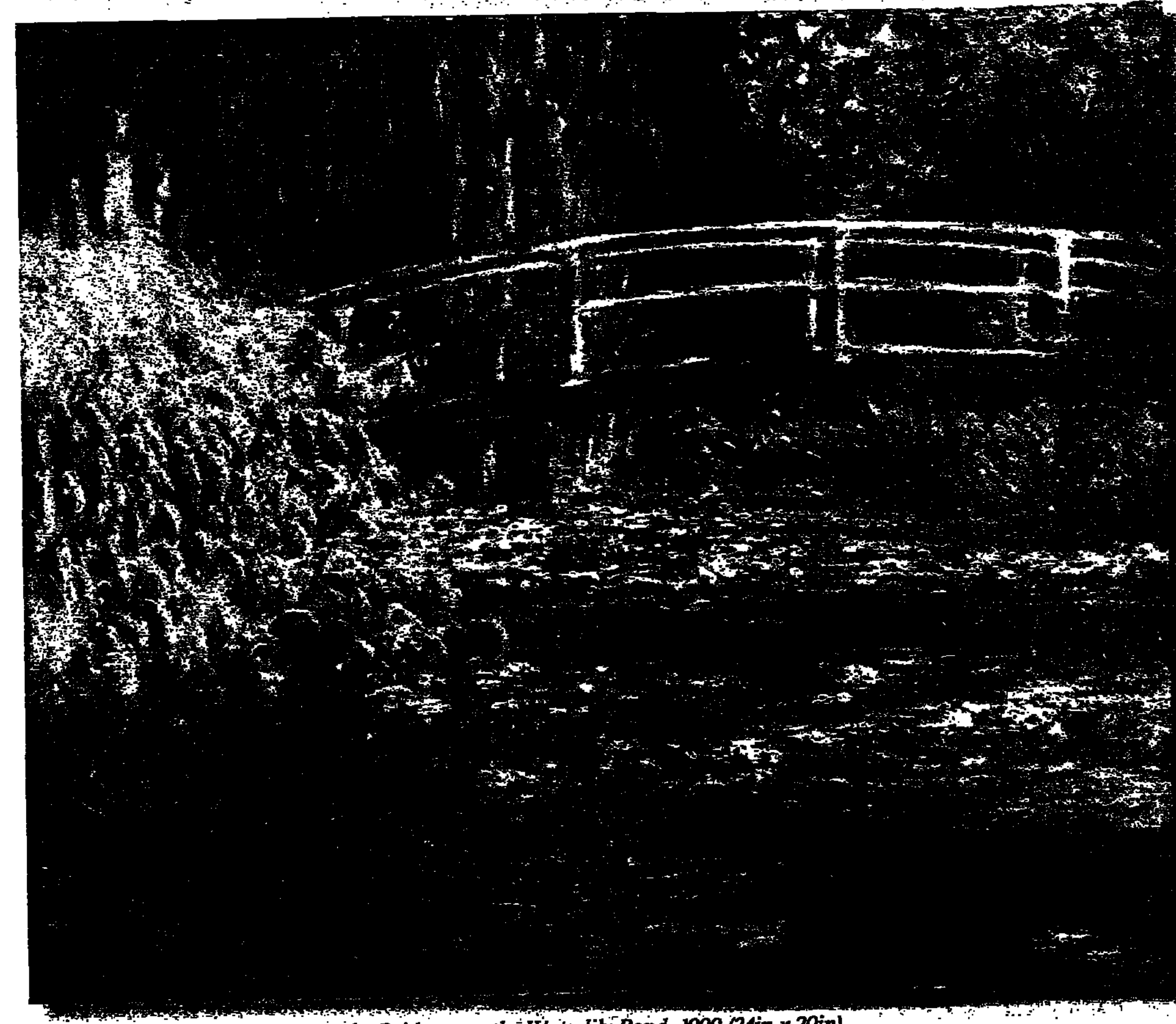
FREE MONET PRINT FOR EVERY READER

To celebrate the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy, *The Times* offers every reader a FREE Monet print, The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900, pictured right, worth £5.99. Simply collect four of the six tokens published this week and enclose four first-class stamps to cover postage.

You can buy the other five of the set of six superb prints, all 24in x 20in and specially printed on fine art paper, for only £5.99 each or just £19.95 for the complete set, saving £10.

You can order this outstanding collection, including the free print, for £19.95 now (no tokens required). Simply call the credit card orderline, or complete the order form, below.

A separate order form for just the free print will be published in *The Times* on Thursday.



The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900 (24in x 20in)

Five fine art Monet prints just £5.99 each. All six for £19.95, a saving of £10



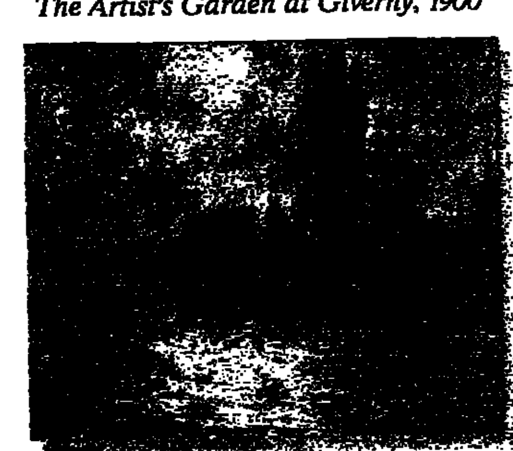
The Grand Canal, Venice, 1908



The Artist's Garden at Giverny, 1900



Pond with Waterlilies, 1904



The Houses of Parliament, Sunset, 1904





Waterlilies with Weeping Willow, 1903

Frame your free print



Just £29

A stylish gilt frame (26in x 22in) has been created specially to fit your free Monet print. Only £29, it comes complete with glass, backing board and is assembled ready to hang. The other five prints in the series are available in the same frame, priced at £39 each

A collector's catalogue



Just £27 inc p&p

Beautifully printed and bound, this fabulous official catalogue of the exhibition at the Royal Academy, contains the fascinating background to Monet's life and illustrates all the paintings on view. Only £27 to *Times* readers (normal price £30) including p&p

THE TIMES MONET PRINT OFFER ORDER FORM

Post to: The Times Monet Offer, Saxon House, Saxon Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 6QX.
Inquiries: 01242 242121 Fax: 01242 573095

DESCRIPTION	UNFRAMED	QTY	FRAMED	QTY	TOTAL
The Grand Canal, Venice, 1908	£5.99		£39		
The Artist's Garden at Giverny, 1900	£5.99		£39		
Pond with Waterlilies, 1904	£5.99		£39		
The Houses of Parliament, Sunset, 1904	£5.99		£39		
Waterlilies with Weeping Willow, 1903	£5.99		£39		
The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900	FREE	1	£29		
Complete set of six prints (saving £10)			£19.95		
Monet in the 20th Century Exhibition catalogue			£27		
P&P per order for framed prints only			£3.95		
				TOTAL	

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... Initials .... Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Day tel ....

1. PAYMENT BY CHEQUE: ☐ I enclose a cheque payable to The Times Art Collection.
2. PAYMENT BY CREDIT OR CHARGE CARD:
I wish to pay by Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Switch ☐ Issue No ☐☐
CARD NO: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ EXPIRY: ☐☐
Please charge my card the sum of £ ...... Signed .... Date ....

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into?
☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+
If you buy *The Times*, on which day(s) do you usually buy it?
☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday
☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy *The Times*

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

CREDIT CARD ORDERS 01242 700700 (24 hours)

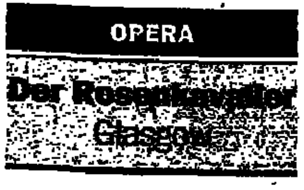
CHANGING TIMES

■ OPERA
Strauss with a twist

ARTS

■ CONCERT
Chailly's Dutch delight

A vibrant rose, but thorny



Rosenkavalier is always a challenge, even more so for one of our national companies on short commons in recent years — a large cast, huge orchestra, unavoidable visual demands. And at Scottish Opera the principals were all singing their roles for the first time: Saturday's performance was uneasy in the first half, with a lot of that index-finger-wagging that always betrays extreme nervousness. Still, the spirits rose when the Theatre Royal curtain went up on the designer-director David McVicar's spacious set, using the whole of the stage: slightly shabby it may have been, intentionally, but it was grand: maybe we were in for the sort of spectacle British audiences have been starved of so long.

Spirits fell when it become plain that it was a permanent set, and would have to do for all three locations, which does the work no service at all, certainly not the suburban inn of the third act, and certainly not when McVicar failed to make a virtue of necessity by putting bed and dining table in the same position to emphasise that the third act is in many ways a satyr-play rerun of the first. This would have supported his thoughtful, fresh — or bloody-minded, according to taste — and generally black reading of the piece.

The scratchy relationship between the Marschallin and Octavian suggested that it was on the rocks long before curtain-rise; fine, but nothing that happened thereafter came as a surprise, and I think it should. Otherwise, why are we in the theatre? But McVicar's most radical rethinking, in tandem with Peter Rose's magnificently sung performance, was the characterisation of Baron Ochs — young, handsome, smartly dressed, in command of every social situation, in no sense a buffoon.

Again, fine, but why should any girl instinctively shrink from marriage, or from a one-or even two-night stand with him (except that one of the girls is a boy, but let that pass)? Why was he fortune-hunting? And isn't the denouement an anticlimax when a really rather unpleasant man — whose snobbery and bravado are funny in more traditional readings — is simply getting his just deserts? Two more oddities: Ochs had a distinctly steamy relationship with his bastard son, and the Marschallin's Moorish servant was a solicitous adult, not a child. Perhaps he is to be her next toy-boy.

Despite a rather frisky wig suggesting Tallulah Bankhead in one of her raunchier movies, Joan Rodgers's Marschallin was perhaps too melancholy — this lady doesn't wear her heartbreak on her sleeve — but, great Mozartian that she is, sang the role exquisitely: it's worth crossing the border just to hear her launch the Trio. Lisa Milne is the spirited Sophie, a right little minx, and Stella Doufexis a coltishly handsome, rather quiet and soprano rather than mezzo Octavian. Phyllis Cannan's hilarious Duenna shines out among the large supporting cast.

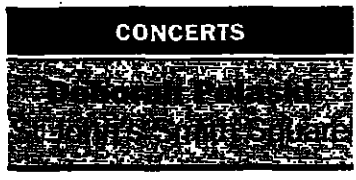
One of the greatest virtues of Richard Armstrong's conducting is that he keeps the score on the move: it really is a conversation piece, not a clutch of purple passages separated by beige dialogue. False sentiment is studiously avoided, and in this he is at one with McVicar. So, a tough, provocative reading, but perhaps a reading of what McVicar wants *Rosenkavalier* to be rather than what it is. A nice try, though.

RODNEY MILNES


DONALD COOPER

Joan Rodgers as a melancholy Marschallin and Stella Doufexis as Octavian in David McVicar's tough, provocative reading of *Der Rosenkavalier*

Up and down the scale



The *Song at St John's* series may be a long way from Wagner at Bayreuth and Covent Garden, but the sizeable audience that turned out at Smith Square for Deborah Polaski's concert showed what a following she has gained in the opera house. At her best, as she is in Barenboim's new recording of Act I of *Die Walküre* on Teldec, the American soprano can give a thrilling performance, yet there is also an unevenness that showed up under the intimate spotlight of a recital.

Not surprisingly, she was most successful in Wagner. The *Wesendonk Lieder* gave room for her richly glowing tone to expand into, most of all at the climax of *Schmerzen*, a song done with great sweep. She also found the freshness of *Der Engel*, but appeared unable to sustain the fervid intensity of *Im Treibhaus*. Although so much of the atmosphere is normally created by the orchestra that piano accompaniment can sound bland, Charles Spencer did evoke the languid mood of *Träume*. Nobody was helped by a nearby pile-driver that might have been more appropriate to an interesting Wagner staging than to these sensuous songs.

Perhaps Polaski's voice is less exciting when scaled down for song: apart from allowing herself a few moments of almost operatic flight she seemed to be holding back for much of the time. In Brahms, one of the most elusive *Lieder* composers, this made for performances of very little personality: seven of her eight songs had the same, essentially forlorn expression, though she did lighten up for the dreamy *Wir wandelten*. Of the others, *Klage* had the most emotional weight.

Like many big voices, Polaski's can be unwieldy: her high notes frequently took a while to settle on pitch, but she did indicate to the audience that she was unhappy with the way her instrument was responding. Yet in Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*, some of the problems were interpretative: *Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen*, perhaps the composer's greatest song, needed phrasing in longer spans. The declamatory phrases of *Um Mitternacht* were better managed, and in *Ich atmet' einen linden Duft* both she and Spencer caught the delicacy that is the key to these transcendental musings.

JOHN ALLISON

Blend us your eras

Concertgebouw/Chailly
Festival Hall

GRADUALLY establishing themselves as regular visitors to the Festival Hall, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam and its chief conductor Riccardo Chailly were greeted enthusiastically by a gratifyingly large audience on Thursday night. And this in spite of the dread name Schoenberg on the programme. Chailly has been introducing his orchestra and audience to a wide range of 20th-century music over the ten years he has been in the post, and all credit to him for offering the Five Orchestral Pieces, albeit wrapped in a cocoon of reassuring Brahms (the Violin Concerto and Second Symphony).

The audience seemed to appreciate the experience. And, indeed, Chailly helped to make sense of Schoenberg's work for a traditional audience, first by placing it in the context of the 19th-century composer whom Schoenberg most stoutly defended, and secondly by projecting the pieces as strongly characterised happenings rather than abstract exercises in atonality. The first and fourth pieces, for example, *Premonitions* and *Peripeteia*, were delivered as aggressively expressionistic mini-dramas, contrasting markedly with the delicate chamber sonorities of *The Past* (No 2) and the miraculously rippling stasis of *Chord-colours* (No 3).

The soloist in the Brahms Violin Concerto was Vadim Repin, trailed somewhat hyperbolically as "the foremost young violinist to have emerged from Russia since the days of Heifetz, Milstein and David Oistrakh". Quite where that leaves Maxim Vengerov is not clear, but if one has to make odious comparisons, it would be difficult to say that Repin's musicianship outstrips that of his slightly younger compatriot.

Repin has, to be sure, a formidable technique, a fine singing tone and an individual way of addressing the listener even in a work as familiar as the Brahms. Judged by the most rigorous standards, however, his playing lacks the last ounce of charisma that Vengerov so consistently evinces. Chailly guided his forces imaginatively through the work, with some distinctive touches of phrasing and, of course, the consummate tonal blending for which the Concertgebouw is famed.

Those qualities characterised the Second Symphony too: finely honed strings, lustrous winds and well-behaved, ideally balanced brass all contributed to a satisfying sonic experience first and a cogent interpretation second. But how shameful that London has only acoustically challenged halls to offer such distinguished visitors.

BARRY MILLINGTON

This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

Stephen Poliakoff's *Talk of the City* reveals a hidden BBC agenda in the 1930s
OPENS: Wed, Young Vic
REVIEW: Friday



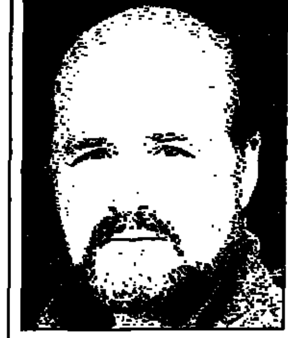
■ MUSIC

Vladimir Fedoseyev and the splendid Vienna SO perform at the Barbican
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



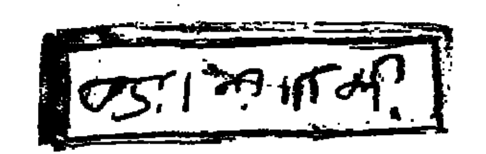
■ FILM

A dead dad returns as a snowman in the mawkish children's movie *Jack Frost*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Kim Begley heads the cast in ENO's new production of Wagner's Parsifal
PREVIEW: Friday
REVIEW: Next week



Don't tell, but this is a revolution

The profound implications of devolution cannot be evaded

Within a decade, the way we are governed could have changed dramatically. Powerful First or Chief Ministers in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast (and possibly regional leaders in Newcastle and Birmingham), together with elected mayors in big cities, could be challenging the dominance of London. The party system could have fragmented where there is devolution, and nationally if the electoral system is reformed. Judges will be ruling on the decisions of ministers and Parliament and on disputes with new devolved bodies. Whitehall and Westminster will have to change radically in response.

This is not the blueprint of a Charter 88-Democratic Audit champion of radical reform, nor the nightmare of a Tory opponent, but the sober assessment of what might happen by the non-partisan analysis of the Constitution Unit in their new book, *Constitutional Futures, A History of the Next Ten Years*, edited by Robert Hazell, its director. Written much more like a Civil Service brief than a polemic, the book exposes the curious ambivalence, and often evasiveness, of the Government's approach.

Constitutional reform is by far the most radical of all new Labour's programmes, and absorbs the most parliamentary time. But you would hardly guess so from listening to most ministers, and not at all from Tony Blair, since he has not made a single speech on the issue as Prime Minister, aside from campaigning trips to Scotland and Wales. Even the two senior ministers most closely involved, Derry Irvine and Jack Straw, veer between pride and caution over what they are doing. In a lecture before Christmas, Lord Irvine of Lairg presented the changes as incremental: "We are not hunting the chimera of constitutional masterplans, nor ultimate outcomes . . . We prefer the empirical political genius of our nation: to go, pragmatically, step by step, for change through continuing consent."

Peter Riddell

There is a strong case for incrementalism, not just as the British way of legislating but also as a political tactic. Past attempts to reform the House of Lords have largely failed because governments tried to do too much in one go. Removing hereditary peers has been blocked because of disagreement over what and who should replace them. Previous radical governments have seldom had a clear masterplan from the start. The Thatcher administrations' proposals on privatisation, trade unions, and tax reform were produced step-by-step over nearly a decade.

The more pertinent criticism is that the Government is minimising the implications of its programme, and the many loose ends. This is again partly a political tactic not to worry MPs. Admittedly, the Government's terms of reference for the Royal Commission on the Lords do suggest that a reformed second chamber could link the separate strands of reform. Devolution is often treated as if it just concerns the Scots and Welsh, but life in Whitehall and Westminster will change considerably. The machinery of government will have to be reorganised for negotiations with the devolved bodies. The separate Secretaries for Scotland, Wales, and, in time, Northern Ireland will probably disappear, but no one is willing to say that now.

Similarly, there are bound to be arguments over money, as in other federal systems such as Australia and Canada, especially since the Treasury will be providing a least 97 per cent of the money for Scotland and 100 per cent for Wales and Northern Ireland. At present, Scotland is one of the most prosperous parts of Britain but receives most per head in public spending on the mainland from the 20-year-old Barnett formula which allocates increases in expenditure. Labour naturally does not want to reopen the question now, and Gordon Brown was not pleased when the Treasury Committee of the Commons recommended a review to link spending and needs more closely. But the debate will not go away.

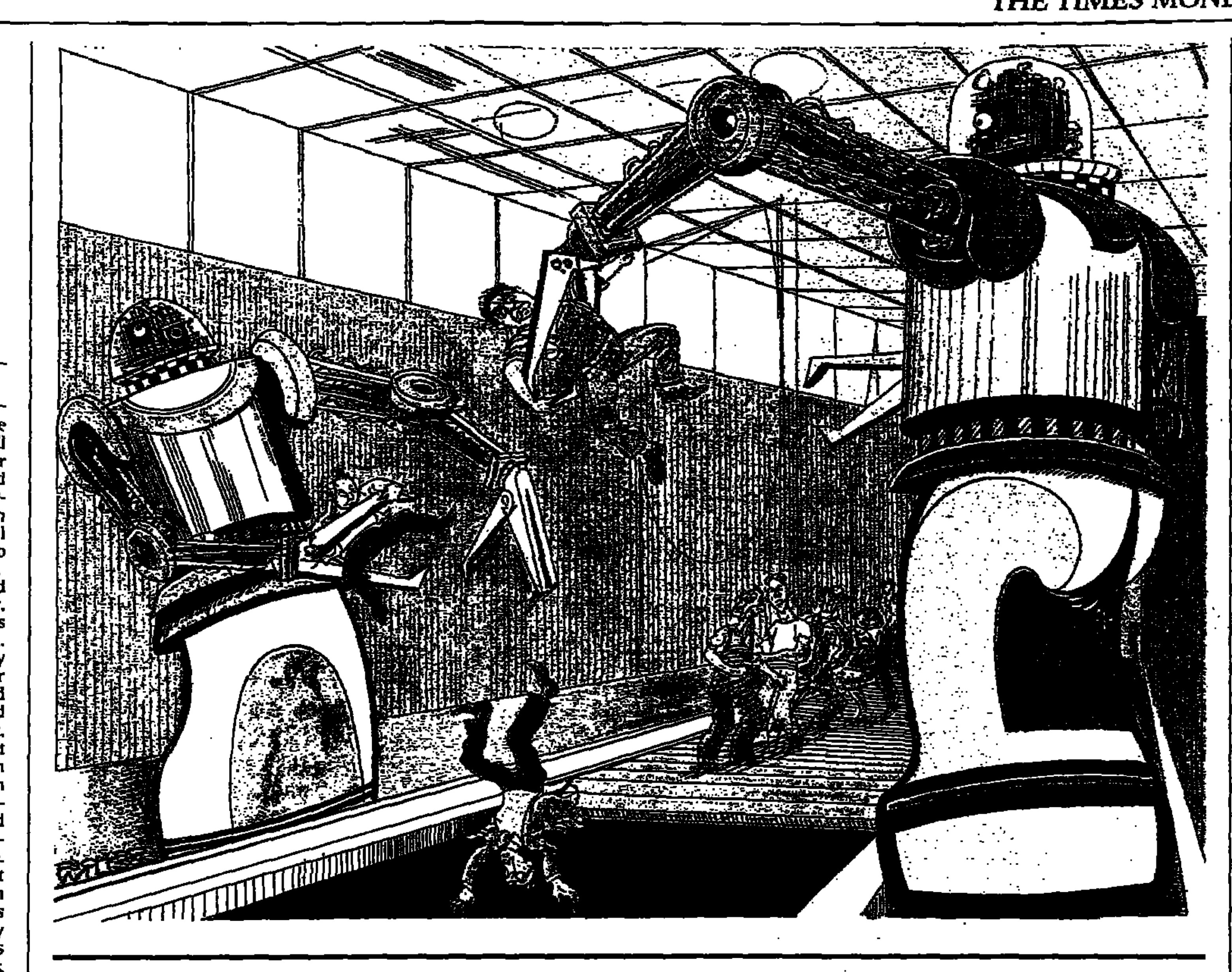
Westminster has also only just started examining its response to devolution. Any immediate changes look like being minimal — reducing the time given to Scottish and Welsh Questions and setting up an English Committee. That will not be enough to meet the concerns of English MPs. As is recognised in *Constitutional Futures*, there is unlikely to be a common federal structure of devolution throughout Britain. But demands will increase for greater decentralisation, via elected regional assemblies in the North East and mayors in big cities.

These various changes will increase pressures on the senior judiciary. The greater public exposure of the Pinochet case is only a foretaste of what will come when judges have to adjudicate on devolution and human rights disputes. That, in turn, will raise questions about whether the law lords should continue to sit and vote in the second chamber or whether we should have a separate Supreme Court, though without the powers of the American version.

The book explores both mini and maxi scenarios of what might happen, and there are contradictions in the Government's attitude. The new Labour leadership in London has so far been reluctant to surrender either financial or political control and has in some areas been as centralist as its predecessors. But even on the cautious mini assumption, Professor Hazell argues that "the cumulative impact will be profound, because the constitutional reforms already set in train will unleash a political and legal dynamic which the Government will not be able to rein back".

The Times will be sponsoring a one-day conference on February 25 on Constitutional Futures: Where is the Government's constitutional reform programme taking us? *Fee £175, academics £80, OAP/charities £60, students £40. Details: 0171-504 4992, fax 0171-504 4993.*

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



Rover is going nowhere

Sooner or later Longbridge will probably close — and we will realise that Europe cannot save us

It came as no surprise that Bernd Pischetsrieder had to resign on Friday at the Munich board meeting of BMW. He was both the executive chairman of BMW and the architect of the policy of purchasing and trying to rebuild Rover. This policy was a disastrous failure, as his rival and second-in-command, Wolfgang Reitzle, had said it would be.

In financial terms, the acquisition of Rover cost more than £800 million, the subsequent investment was over £2 billion and the current losses are about £360 million. To invest £3 billion in order to create a loss of £360 million is enough to get any chief executive the sack. All the more so, because the immediate outlook for Rover is one of rising losses as world demand for cars continues to decline; there is also a need for further massive investment. The Pischetsrieder policy has totally failed.

The surprise is that the BMW board did not turn to Reitzle. From a British perspective it is easy to see the Anglophile Pischetsrieder as a Cavalier, "romantic but wrong", and the harder minded Reitzle as a Roundhead, "repulsive but right". If the Pischetsrieder strategy was a disaster, should BMW not have switched to the Reitzle strategy? The board decided not to do so. To understand that decision one needs to look back to BMW's problem as it would seem in 1994 when the decision to acquire Rover was taken. That proved a disastrous decision, but there were arguments for it.

At that time BMW was, as it still is, a very successful brand, at the upper end of the market, with sales of about 600,000 units a year and wide profit margins. The strategic studies which were being made, both for BMW and for other major producers, all suggested that global competition was going to erode the advantages of BMW and of the other companies, such as Volvo or Jaguar, which were based on relatively narrow brands. BMW would either have to accept a takeover by one of the larger international companies, which included Daimler-Benz, General Motors, Ford and Fiat, or try to build itself into an international company of approximately their size. The policy of remaining a niche brand would lead to declining profit margins and loss of value for the shareholders, including the Quandt family, which has effective control.

The purchase of Rover was an attempt to build BMW into a fully competitive global car company. They went for big; they nearly went for broke.

This strategic analysis has been confirmed by the mergers which have happened since. Individual brands, even very good ones, are not surviving as independent companies. The Reitzle policy was to reinforce the BMW brand with the best of Rover — Land Rover, Mini and MG. The BMW board did not feel that this was an adequate strategy when they bought Rover in 1994. They plainly do not believe it is a viable strategy now. As they have rejected both the Pischetsrieder and the Reitzle strategies, and appointed as chairman a man not identified with either strategy, Joachim Milberg, that means that BMW does not now have a strategy at all.

William Rees-Mogg

Professor Milberg is described as a "safe pair of hands"; as applied to a senior board member that means a professional manager who keeps well away from the big strategic disputes, and is good at operating tactically his part of the strategy, which has been decided by other people. To appoint such a person as chairman means that BMW, or its controlling shareholders, have ruled out both the strategic options.

At present the BMW brand is still highly profitable; the company also controls Rover brands, the full hand of cards of the Rietzle policy. In a couple of years' time these niche brands are likely to be subject to even more intense competition, and there will have been a running sore of continued Rover losses. Perhaps by then the great Wall Street boom will have come to an end.

Whatever the Quandt family may feel, its financial advisers can only be saying one thing: sell, sell now, get the premium on the share price while it is still there. Once it was decided to fire both Pischetsrieder with his big-company strategy, and Reitzle with his niche-brands strategy, no other strategy was left; an independent future for BMW became a muddle or a bluff.

This looks to be only another temporary postponement of the closure of Rover's Longbridge plant. That, when it comes, will be a heavy blow to the local economy. It will lead to the closure of many local suppliers, and to loss of profits beyond them. Longbridge has been a low productivity plant for many decades; it has been seen as an industrial problem for at least 35 years. Productivity is only about a third of the best and half the average in British car plants.

People do not like losing their jobs. When there are large redundancies, a main board always seems remote, and its decisions seem arbitrary. This is worse when the company is an international one, since its decisions can always be suspect as having been biased in favour of the home country. Anglo-German relations are not as bad as they are sometimes thought to be, but it is probably more prejudicial for a German company to shut down a British plant than for a Dutch or American company to do the same thing for the same reasons. Quite possibly Longbridge will eventually be closed by Ford or General Motors, as part of a review of the BMW plants after an American takeover. In public relations terms that might be easier.

The political lesson is not that a distant board in Munich is destroying Birmingham jobs, though the Reitzle plan would have done that, but that the European connection cannot insulate British industry from the impact of the global market. The reason that Longbridge may have to close is that global car production capacity in 1999 is about 50 per cent higher than expected sales; it is probably still increasing faster than sales. Longbridge is a low-productivity plant in a period of world overcapacity.

The Rover issue shows that Britain has to meet global competition whether we are integrated into Europe or not. BMW cannot protect a plant that is surplus to global needs; it cannot protect itself. If Longbridge does close, that will be an important political event; it will demonstrate to the British people one of the limitations of European power. Yet it will not answer this question: will British business meet global competition better if we are wholly integrated into the European economy? Or will the flexibility of independence help Britain to be more effective as a competitor?

A lot of people have lost confidence in the virtues of independence — the CBI, the TUC, the Lord Mayor of London, many senior civil servants, the Government, most of the law lords the larger part of the Establishment. They take the view that integrated membership of a large regional bloc is the best way to meet world competition. They are regionalist, not globalist. They are also defeatists.

Yet the argument the other way seems much stronger. Competitiveness depends on costs; continental Europe is the world's highest cost zone, in terms of wages, taxes, hours of work, government expenditure and regulation. In all of these factors of competitiveness, Europe is more vulnerable than Britain. We also have the advantage of a market currency, whereas the euro imposes a single currency on economies with very different competitive abilities. Our own exchange-rate crisis in 1993, and the Asian currency disasters since 1997, demonstrate the danger of fixed exchange rates which get out of line with global market realities. Rover proves Europe cannot save us; it is the euro which could actually sink us.

My personal sympathies are with Wolfgang Reitzle. At the Munich board meeting he was right. I think that BMW, without Rover, could have prospered as a brand, and Land Rover would surely have strengthened it. But that merely proves that I believe in independence rather than mere bulk. In nature, in the car industry, in world competition, in nations, elephantiasis is not the best route to survival.

comment@the-times.co.uk

The point is to overwhelm the interlocutor, so that you emerge as the more Soviet, the more petty, the more steeped in unnecessary officialdom

If you want to get anything done in Russia, you have to know how to talk. Exactly how. Just chatting merrily away or being incredibly deferential won't work. A specific amount of time needs to be set aside in every undertaking for persuading people to do what they have already agreed to do both by telephone and by fax, what they know perfectly well they are going to do, what they may even actively want to do and what they are often legally obliged to do.

Newcomers can find this procedure tedious and obstructive, but as far as the initiators are concerned it is simply part of the deal, a vital part, without which no trip round a factory, no application for a visa and no visit to any kind of official organisation would be complete.

Upon arrival almost anywhere, from the state Duma building to the offices of a newspaper, the visitor is required to stand in a dim, dark, yellow entrance way, heated by vast scorching fans situated at either end, blowing in air so hot as to make breathing difficult.

The floor is likely to be inches deep in muddy water and, depending on the popularity of the organisation, the vestibule will be extremely crowded and sweaty, with grimy condensation dripping down the glass panels in the heavy, metal swing doors.

Here in the gloom there will be one cream-coloured plastic telephone made in 1952, sitting on a low, wooden table. The idea is that you take turns with the phone, calling the person whose name is scrawled on a chewing-gum wrapper in your purse, and that person will then come down, fill out a form, get you an entrance pass, lead you through security and take you to see the object of your desire. Or not.

This is where the talking comes in. "Hello, I have an appointment to see Ivan Ivanovich Ivanov," you say, trying to keep a smile in your voice. There is a pause, during which the person at the other end of the line is almost certainly sighing, wondering whether or not you might be mad, and thinking it must be time for a teabreak, such has been the unprecedented number of prank callers this morning. "I don't see your name here. With whom did you make the appointment?" they will ask.

Anna Blundy

At this point you need to be prepared. The game is that you should win the argument by means of your superior rationale. Also on your chewing-gum wrapper are the names of ten officials with whom you have communicated at length prior to your arrival. In brackets under their names you have written the names of their secretaries and the time at which you phoned to arrange the meeting for which you have now come. The point is to overwhelm the interlocutor with more bureaucracy then she has at her fingertips, such that you emerge victorious as the more Soviet, the more petty, the more steeped in unnecessary officialdom.

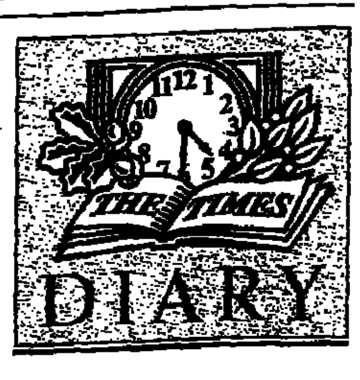
Ideally the barrage of your entirely superfluous information will allow you to march unhindered into the building of choice and meet people at the very highest level (like, for example, the woman who puts the actual stamps on the visas). Often, however, you find you have moved too fast, laid all your aces on the table precipitately. This can irritate your minion and cause her to drag her feet, and call all the people on your sticky list demanding to know why she was not informed of your forthcoming visit (she was).

Somebody explained to me recently the point of going into a Russian banya (sauna). "You get so hot you can't stand it and all you want to do is get cold," he said. "So you run outside and jump through the hole in the ice until you're so cold you can't stand it and all you want to do is get warm." The pleasure is akin to that experienced when somebody stops hitting you.

That is not to diminish it in any way. I visited a chocolate factory recently, brandishing a fax that allowed me to go in, meet some technicians, be shown round, eat some chocolate and look at the factory museum. I stood in the foyer for half an hour arguing about the relative likelihood that somebody had seriously given me permission for any of these activities, before the woman with whom I had been bickering came down to meet me, smiling, laughing and being as helpful as it was possible to be.

The visit was immeasurably more enjoyable for the 30 minutes of dread experienced before it, when I thought maybe, just maybe, the fax would not be enough to get me in.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Down market

SMALL-TOWN England is about to press flesh with Monica Lewinsky. The world's most visible intern is to carry out a book-signing tour for a chain of provincial bookshops.

Fresh from presenting her evidence to the Senate, Lewinsky will inscribe copies of Andrew Morton's "tell all" biography at four branches of County Bookshops — a diddy little company which works out of such places as Gateshead, Hull and Rochdale. While her access to the White House is now limited, I gather the British Embassy in Washington has been rather more helpful about visas.

The shop will excitedly cry: "Your daughter's daughters will adore you for purchasing this appreciating asset." Come, gentlemen, don't be unchivalrous about her fondness for hamburgers.

● *GWYNETH PALTROW thinks Shakespeare was a bit of an all-rounder. The actress, pictured, who plays his paramour in* Shakespeare in Love, *is sure the plotline is credible — except, like other eminent "Dark Lady" scholars, she believes her character, Viola, would have been a boy. "Everybody was very open with their sexuality then and it wasn't weird for people of the same sex to be together."*





Lording it

SECURITY for former Northern Ireland Secretaries is a tricky matter, but a couple of peers are perplexed. They note that while some recent Secretaries lack protection, a man who left the post 20 years ago still uses an armoured car and protection officers.

Fellow peers are chippy at the sight of Lord Mason of Barnsley striding past taxi queues. "I do find it funny that he still uses it," says Lord Prior. Another lord is sharper: "We all think he just likes to feel important." Surely, after Airey Neave's death, they are being a little ungenerous?

● *JEREMY PAXMAN has his doubts about William Hague. The* Newsnight *presenter, whose latest book,* The English, *sits happily in the bestseller lists, mocks the Tory leader's recent pronouncement. "To call the British 'brassy' was odd," he tells me. "We are actually a rather shy and private people."*

Lime cordials

REFUSENIKS at the BBC are having a knees-up. A party thrown by the corporation's finest, including Robert Harris, David Dimbleby and Sir Ludovic Kennedy, will hark back to pre-Birtian days by remembering Lime Grove Studios, the current affairs base closed by Sir John in 1990. Tomorrow's bash — putatively to mark the opening of a homeless hostel on the old site — will see the old gang sipping warm wine and watching out-takes.

DO YOU FIND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CREDIBLE?

"We were happy there," sniffles a BBC type. But will Sir John turn up? "He never actually worked there. He was, as he once said himself, from another planet."

● *JACK STRAW has found a cunning way to win over that spirited backbench renegade, Bob Marshall-Andrews. He has asked Mrs Bob, Gill Marshall-Andrews, to advise him on gun control.*

Sister act

RICHARD BRANSON is doing his bit for the sisters. Virgin Books will soon bring us Sapphire, a new imprint for lesbians. Billed as "the raunchiest lesbian imprint ever to hit the UK", it will be launched in May with the first book in the series, Big Deal. How apt.

JASPER GERARD



ABDULLAH'S INHERITANCE

Iraq may prove the new King's most pressing policy problem

The scenes of desolation on the streets of Amman, the extraordinary tributes paid by other international figures, and the enormous number of world leaders who will assemble in Jordan today for his funeral, pays fitting tribute to the life and work of King Hussein. Although there was some confusion about his exact condition in the final days, the transition of power to Crown Prince, now King, Abdullah has proceeded as smoothly as could reasonably be expected in the difficult circumstances.

In the space of scarcely two weeks the new King has been asked to make the transition from soldier to monarch and statesman. He has handled that short period of time with considerable dignity. In the short term, he will benefit from the undoubted goodwill generated by his father's success in turning what was initially little more than a colonial convenience into a coherent country and people. The often turbulent nature of Middle East politics will soon test Abdullah's mettle.

It has been widely argued that the new King is an unknown and inexperienced individual. Neither assertion is entirely accurate. The objectives that Abdullah will set himself are relatively clear and follow strongly from those left by his father. He may be inexperienced now but others will soon be in that same situation. The rulers of Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia and Syria are all longstanding political figures with well publicised health problems. The vibrant nature of Israel's democracy means that political turnover in that state is always a possibility. Within a decade, King Abdullah may well be the most seasoned leader in the region.

The lengthy Israeli election campaign, and inevitable complexity in forming a coalition Cabinet thereafter, offers the King an opportunity to concentrate on domestic questions before then being obliged fully to shape his foreign policy. Those matters at home are significant in themselves. They include the management of Jordan's move towards a limited form of democracy, an overdue crackdown on official corruption, and action to remedy a lethargic economy with substantial unemployment. This last aspect is of particular urgency. Average per capita income in Jordan is barely one fifteenth that of neighbouring Israel.

King Hussein knew that Jordan needed peace with, and extensive financial ties to, Israel if his country were ever to achieve prosperity. He pursued those links for that reason despite their domestic unpopularity. The cool response among many Jordanians to the presence of Binyamin Netanyahu in Amman today is a visible reminder that some will surely seek to exploit such emotions. An effective peace process alone can render co-operation between Israel and Jordan politically plausible. Much will depend on two factors the King cannot control: whether Yassir Arafat declares a Palestinian state in May and the precise outcome of the Israeli ballot for Prime Minister and Knesset shortly after.

These events, though, might not prove the most troubling aspect of King Abdullah's inheritance. The machinations of Syria, although serious, could also prove containable. The succession struggle in Damascus once President Assad dies, between his son Bashar and others in the Alawi sect, may make recent feuds among the Hashemites appear ordered. The real danger could rest with a man who will definitely not be attending King Hussein's funeral. While Saddam Hussein still runs Iraq, Jordan will be caught between the United States and popular sentiment among much of its own population. King Abdullah must hope that the next new and inexperienced man in Middle East politics comes to power in Baghdad.

TO THE AID OF THE PARTY

The first Conservative policy paper is not encouraging

After so many months of silence, the first Conservative document to outline fresh approaches in a specific area of policy is welcome. The more pity, then, that the public thoughts of Gary Streeter, the Tory spokesman on international development, suggest that he has as much to learn about his subject as Clare Short. "Conservatives," he rather defensively begins, "have something new to say about International Development." But what is best in these proposals is not really new; and most of what is new is half-baked.

That is true even of the paper's most radical idea. It argues that "there may now be a *prima facie* case" for closing down the European Union's aid programme. This needed to be said out loud. For years, British ministers and their officials have been groaning in private that EU aid spending, a byword for waste, fraud and political manipulation, is a shocking waste of money. In public they have called for reform, but never asked Mr Streeter's question: "Why does the EU need an aid programme?" The EU, governments are agreed, should not do things that national governments can do better; and this is a clear case where it does them much worse.

But how would the Tories set about slaying this white elephant? Mr Streeter does not say. He seems to hope that Britain can get together with other governments, not to abolish EU aid spending but to trim it. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the most effective aid minister this country has had, could have told Mr Streeter that he is whistling in the wind, if only because France is protective of a programme that serves its goals in Francophone Africa.

Fresh thinking is not much use without thorough homework, which in this case would have to explore the legal scope for a British taxpayer revolt. And on UN development programmes, most of which are so ill-run and ineffective as to be actually counter-productive, there is not a word. They too are a drain on British aid funds; in most cases, it would be a blow for UN reform to turn off the tap.

What of the Department for International Development (DFID) itself? The paper misses its chance to lay out a Tory strategy for encouraging wealth creation through liberating individual effort. That would do far more for the poor than Ms Short's unrealistic and misplaced crusade to "eliminate" absolute poverty. It is right to argue that the promotion of better government should be "the key objective" of aid. Nothing has shrunk the constituency in this country for helping poorer countries more than the sense that it enriches crooked politicians and bureaucrats.

Yet here again, Mr Streeter proves a shrinking violet, worthily wondering how to lay down conditions "without harming the poor". On debt relief, he seems not to realise that he is in the realm of truism when he says that the criterion should be a government's determination to reform, rather than the record of past performance.

Instead of delivering aid directly, the paper says that the DFID should become an "enabling authority". It makes sense for the DFID to encourage competitive bidding for contracts by the private sector, as well as voluntary agencies. But this should be done when, and because, it would offer poor countries better value for money. The purpose should not, in the paper's touchy-feely language, be "empowering" aid agencies. Nor is it certain that the result will be "better co-ordination and less duplication"; aid agencies are as notorious for squabbling over shares of development pie as any UN body. International aid is a natural candidate for true radicalism. This limp effort should have been shredded by William Hague before it saw daylight.

ERODING THE BEDROCK

The threat to suburbia should be taken seriously

Britain's net curtains are twitching. Urban decay, usually associated with the inner cities, is spreading into parts of suburbia. According to a report for the Civic Trust, the tree-lined avenues, synonymous with family life, face the danger of decline. Ministers should heed this warning. These communities, in which 60 per cent of the population live, cannot be allowed to implode. Such a fate would again exacerbate the need for new houses. Instead, a more imaginative approach is required, to attract people into suburbia and lessen the constant pressure to build in the country.

The many attractions of suburban life have been battered by the winds of social change. Suburbs are, by their very nature, dependent on other urban areas. The need to commute and the rapid growth in car ownership has lessened social contact and demobilised Burke's "little platoons". Rather than shop in a high street, people are often lured into retail parks or out-of-town superstores. For young people, sedate suburbia, with its rows of identical houses and apparent culture of conformity, may appear to be no match for a pulsating city. Worse, the dependence of many suburban areas on one local employer has made them just as vulnerable as mining communities to economic forces. Yet, until now, their plight has rarely been acknowledged.

There is nothing inevitable about the erosion of the suburbs, nor would such an event be remotely desirable. These remain the communities in which most parents seek to raise their children. They are, as even George Orwell, an occasional critic, once aptly noted, Britain's secret bedrock.

Suburbia's fate cannot be disentangled from, indeed depends upon, the wider debate over housebuilding. The Government contends, on dubious grounds, that 4.4 million homes are needed by 2016 to accommodate the increase in single people, divorcees and elderly people. As an area the size of Newcastle upon Tyne needs to be built upon to meet the demands of the South East alone, the green belt is being loosened. An extra 10,000 acres of such land have been incorporated into development plans since the general election.

John Prescott, facing accusations that he is overseeing the destruction of the countryside, has ruled that 60 per cent of new homes should be built on "brownfield", urban sites. Suburbia's contribution must not be overlooked. Ministers should consider the report's innovative schemes to resuscitate suburban spirit and deter an exodus from Britain's Acacia Avenues. A suburban renaissance might offer novel means of tackling the need for new homes, and keep the net curtains twitching.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Cost of improving railway efficiency

From the Chief Executive of Railtrack

Sir, Your editorial, "Morton's fork" (February 4), is a mixture of the very right and the very wrong.

We entirely agree that the incentive framework set up in 1993, when there was no growth on the railway, is inappropriate for today's problems. It has delivered unprecedented growth in passenger and freight, increased investment in infrastructure and rolling stock and a reduction in government subsidy. It has not delivered improvement in train performance.

Part of this is a function of the growth. Congestion models show that a 1 per cent increase in passenger train miles results in a 2.5 per cent increase in delays. Another cause is the incentive framework where some parts of the railway industry, as you point out, are incentivised more for growth than performance and other parts, including Railtrack, have insufficient incentive for enhancement investment.

I really cannot accept that the blame for all this should fall on Railtrack. We have reduced our delays by over 40 per cent in the last three years — we are now responsible for 45 per cent of all delays, compared with 65 per cent three years ago. This is a bigger increase in productivity than achieved in any other privatised utility. In terms of delays attributed to us we are running 4 per cent better this year than last year, in spite of a 7 per cent increase in passenger train miles.

Far from "barely starting" our investment programme, we have doubled our investment in the infrastructure to £1.45 billion this year — approximately four times our annual profit and around ten times the rate of depreciation. No other company in the FTSE 100 is investing so much in relation to its profits. We have a negative cashflow this year of over £500 million due to this programme. Moreover, by the end of next year we will have invested over £1 billion more in renewals than the Rail Regulator required us to invest when he set our access charges in 1994 — and he is proposing to allow no return on this investment.

The challenge of improving performance and maintaining the growth momentum without any changes to the incentive regimes is awesome. That is why, since the November summit, we and the train operators have adopted a more collaborative approach. You will hear of more progress on this at the February 25 summit with the Deputy Prime Minister.

The regulator, in his December 9 corporate finance determination, has challenged us to take more risk, making even more investment and raising the required finance. This is fundamental to getting the Government's Transport White Paper implemented. In our network management statement, to be published in March, you will see us responding to this challenge. Already last week we committed to a £165 million investment at Leeds and are letting contracts, without a guaranteed customer for the extra capacity.

This is the way forward. We are grasping the nettle.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD CORBETT,
Chief Executive, Railtrack plc,
Railtrack House,
Euston Square, NW1 2EE.
February 4.

From Mr John Stittle

Sir, Your front-page report today, headed "Trains getting later and later", is even more alarming when the nation's finances are considered. Since privatisation, not only are the UK's train services more unreliable but they are also costing the taxpayer dearly.

Massive state subsidies now support the so-called privatised passenger train operators. Until last year financial aid from the public purse was nearly double the subsidies received by the former state-owned British Rail. The passenger now receives a worse service at greater cost.

As you report, John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, is contractually unable to alter the 25 passenger franchisees. However, he could legislate to impose far more onerous financial penalties on train operators whose punctuality and reliability targets fail to meet high standards.

Likewise, the track and signals owner, Railtrack, should have its own investment programme subject to far greater scrutiny. For too long it has provided for investment in its financial statements but has failed to spend the cash.

The regulator must insist that the level of Railtrack's track access fees (payable by train operators) is related far more closely to standards of investment and operating performance. At present, penalties for failure are often a minor irritation. They must hurt the company.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STITTLE
(Senior Lecturer,
Accountancy and Finance),
Anglia Business School,
Anglia University,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LL.
j.r.stittle@anglia.ac.uk
February 4.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Teachers' performance and pay

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, With the greatest respect I can muster I have to say that your leading article today, "Professional pay", is misguided.

Every serious study to date has come to the same conclusion: performance-related pay (PRP) does not work, even in the private sector. However the system is structured, it always means rewarding the few at the perceived expense of the many, and such benefits as may result (which are anyway impossible to measure) from the enhanced motivation of the successful are more than offset by the demotivation of everyone else.

It is all too typical of the Treasury to have seized on an unproven business theory imported from America and turned it into a dogma. It has long been trying to impose PRP on reluctant public services, undeterred by the absence of any proof of its efficacy, fairness or overall cost-effectiveness.

There are two fundamental objections to PRP in the public sector, over and above those in the private. First, public servants are not principally motivated by money. Secondly, there is no reliable way of quantifying a public servant's output.

Your statement that it will cost "up to £1 billion" to implement the scheme only underlines this latter point. Not only will already overstressed head teachers have to waste hours working out ostensibly objective reasons for paying some of their staff more than others, but we are now to create an army of bureaucrats looking over their shoulders and wasting more of everyone's time and money.

If a billion pounds really are suddenly available, it would be far more effective to distribute the money to the schools, to spend as they and the governors see fit.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, N1 1JJ.
February 2.

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, The performance management model put forward in the Government's technical paper on the future of the teaching profession is hopelessly over-bureaucratic and totally unmanageable.

NASUWT has advocated a constructive alternative. This is to link pay to a fair, sensible, streamlined, non-bureaucratic system of appraisal, based on judging the qualities teachers bring to their work. Unlike the government proposals, this model would achieve the aims you rightly support in your leading article of making "the profession like any other one where hard work, dedication and motivation are rewarded with promotion and remuneration".

The Government is ill-briefed in claiming in its recent Green Paper, *Meeting the Challenge of Change*, that teachers have set themselves more strongly against performance-related pay than most other professions. I know of no other profession that employs PRP on any significant scale.

Most teacher unions reacted positively to the Green Paper. The technical paper is now alienating those of us who were keen to respond positively and build a better future for teachers.

While you may wish to attack those who are already calling for industrial action, you should not be lulled into a false belief that there is not a huge groundswell of antipathy towards the Government welling up in the teaching profession.

I regard the proposals as entirely inappropriate, woefully unmanageable and monstrously bureaucratic. They would hinder and not promote effective teaching.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL de GRUCHY,
General Secretary, NASUWT,
5 King Street,
Covent Garden, WC2E 8HN.
February 3.

Healthcare rationing

From the Chief Executive of the Christie Hospital NHS Trust

Sir, Your leading article of January 22, "The potent taxpayer", properly draws attention to the long overdue need for a wider debate on healthcare rationing and the NHS. However, you understate the extent to which rationing currently takes place.

In addition to the "postcode prescribing" limitations you refer to, many entire services are fast disappearing from the NHS. Examples would include adult dentistry, assisted conception, much middle-class minor trauma and its resulting physiotherapy.

This has not shaken the NHS to its foundations but is simply a consumer-driven response to limitation in public provision. This movement needs to be accelerated to permit vital investment in services for genuinely life-threatening conditions — which must always remain the responsibility of the State.

The notion that every NHS deficiency can simply be resolved by yet more funding needs to be exposed as naive and fanciful.

No economy could ever keep pace with its population's desire for health-related services, and no government will ever be so foolish as to try.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE FRY,
Chief Executive, Christie Hospital
National Health Service Trust,
Wilmslow Road, Withington,
Manchester M20 4BX.
January 29.

Blair and EU veto

From Professor Kenneth Minogue

Sir, I am puzzled by your report, headed "Blair commits Britain to the euro dream" (January 29), that the Prime Minister will agree to "trimming the veto in EU policymaking".

Surely it is the case that if an EU policy is good, the Government can agree to it; and if it is bad, the Government must for all our sakes retain the power to reject it. Otherwise we simply sign away our protection against bad policies.

It follows that we must not abandon what little veto remains to us. Those who come after us would not soon forgive such an abandonment of British interests.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MINOGUE,
Centre for Policy Studies,
57 Tufton Street, SW1P 3QL.
January 29.

Interest rate change

From Dr Tom Tate

Sir, I see that we have crossed an important watershed. Yesterday's rate cut has prompted the change from the genus "millions meditate mortgage misery" to today's report, which began "Savers were dealt a savage blow . . ."

Yours faithfully,
TOM TATE,
Snowfield Cottage,
Bearsted, Kent ME14 4DL.
t.tate@ic.ac.uk
February 5.

Byways in peril

From Mr G. McL. Wilson

Sir, Fat chance, Lady Milner-Barry (letter, February 1; see also letters, February 4). The Countryside Commission wants exactly the reverse of a ban on petrol-driven vehicles on byways. It proposes the reclassification of "all unsealed unclassified roads and BOATs (byways open to all traffic), by statute, as byways carrying a right of use by all categories of user, including vehicles . . .".

The only thing green about these roads will be the wellies required to traverse them.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON WILSON,
Foxhill House, Foxhill,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 0DS.
February 4.

From Mr Toby Marsden

Sir, The type of damage to which Lady Milner-Barry refers is extremely unusual. In the vast majority of cases the use of green roads by light recreational vehicles (as opposed to the agricultural vehicles that cause most of the damage) actually maintains the shape and character of the lane.

Removing vehicular rights allows landowners to remove hedges and plough the surface. A ban on motor vehicles using green roads would cause irrevocable damage to these most valuable ancient monuments.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY MARSDEN,
Orleton Manor, Orleton,
Ludlow, Shrewsbury SY8 4HR.
February 1.

Airport at Aldeburgh

From Mr Richard Buxton

Sir, Yann Borgstedt's letter on behalf of Anglia International Airport (January 26) suggests a benign airfield with only "ten commercial flights a day". In fact, his company's proposals involve on average 220 aircraft movements a day (80,340 movements a year were applied for). In addition to commercial use, there would be many recreation and training flights.

The public inquiry is considering whether Suffolk Coastal District Council should have a policy of allowing aviation to start again at Bentwaters at all. It proposes a "low intensity" aviation use. But, surprisingly, it has in mind 50,000 movements as appropriately "low" intensity.

Many people who value the surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for its tranquillity, not just those concerned with Snape Maltings (letter, January 21), consider that any resumption of flying from Bentwaters would be disastrous. Once an airport is established, there is always further pressure for expansion.

The resulting annoyance is made worse by the existence of a rule that aircraft are exempt from legal action for noise nuisance. When this became law in 1920, it was understandably intended to protect the fledgeling aircraft industry. Times have changed, and its application should be reviewed.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUXTON
(Solicitor — environmental law),
40 Clarendon Street,
Cambridge CB1 1JX.

Scattered relics of Saint Valentine

From the Very Reverend Paul Chavasse

Sir, Your report on St Valentine's relics (February 3) overlooks the fact that England, too, has the bones of a St Valentine. These can be found in the Oratory Church in Edgbaston.

They were a gift from Pope Pius IX to the then Father John Henry Newman, on the occasion of his return to England in 1848. The Pope told Newman to celebrate this Valentine's feast on his, Newman's, birthday — February 21; a custom we maintain.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL CHAVASSE
(Provost), The Oratory,
Hagley Road, Edgbaston B16 8UE.
February 3.

From Mrs Regine Tatham

Sir, Glasgow and Dublin may not be the only cities to claim the remains of St Valentine. It would seem that Winchester may also have been a much earlier repository for some of these, acquired by no less a person than Queen Emma, wife of Ethelred the Unready and subsequently of King Cnut.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states in 1042: "King Harthacnut passed away at Lambeth on 8 June . . . and he is buried in the Old Minster in Winchester with King Cnut, his father." In a footnote, it adds that "for his soul's sake, his mother gave into New Minster the head of St Valentine the martyr".

Unfortunately there is no record of what happened subsequently to this venerable object. It may have been swept away by Wriothesley, Henry VIII's commissioner, when in 1538, after despoiling the cathedral and priory of its treasures, his men came back the next day to disperse the remaining bones of the saints, "lest it be thought they came for the gold and silver alone".

Yours sincerely,
REGINE TATHAM,
6 St James Terrace, Winchester,
Hampshire SO22 4PP.
February 4.

Celtic literature

From Mr Matthew J. Pearson

Sir, I was surprised to read in Anne Rooney's review of *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature* (Books, February 4) that "the inclusion of Welsh and Irish vernacular writing is more politically correct than relevant". I disagree with such a sentiment: the appearance in the Cambridge study of Celtic vernacular literature is not a sign of political correctness but more an indication of academic maturity. Many of the religious issues and concerns identified in Welsh and Irish writings echo the feelings enshrined in, for instance, English devotional tracts.

Moreover, the Celtic world contributed to the development and transmission of Arthurian Romances, a theme of tremendous significance to medieval English literature. In short, the Celtic material provides valuable comparative insights which can only enrich the understanding of the literature of this period.

Within the past decade it has become the norm in general studies of *medieval history and literature* to analyse the British Isles as a whole, and it is a pity Anne Rooney disagrees with this trend.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW J. PEARSON,
School of History and Welsh History,
University of Wales,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG.
February 4.

Golden years

From Mr Vivian Vale

Sir, I like to think of middle age (letters, January 5, 12, 19, 26 and 28; February 1) as that precious interval after one's doctor has ceased to assure one that "you'll grow out of it", but not yet begun to pronounce "you'll learn to live with it".

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN VALE,
Middle House, 22 Long Street,
Cerne Abbas, Dorset DT2 7JF.
February 5.

From Mr D. S. Norton

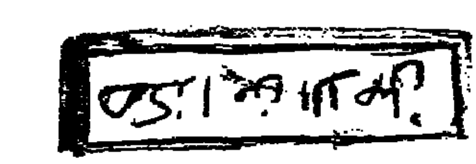
Sir, Middle age occurs when you stop complaining about how much money you have to put into your pension scheme, and start asking how much more you could put in.

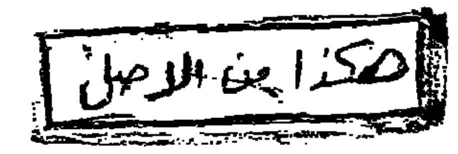
Yours faithfully,
DAVID NORTON,
The Granary, Tickenham Court,
Tickenham, Bristol BS21 6SX.

From Mr M. T. W. Tod

Sir, I can assure Mr A. W. Tod (letter, February 1) that one well-known symptom of the onset of old age is writing specifically to the bottom right-hand corner of *The Times* letters page — and if he retaliates on the basis that this letter fulfils the criterion, I'll restrict lavatory breaks on our longer journeys together.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TOD,
Brookside, Padmoor Lane,
Upton, Lincolnshire DN21 5NH.
mike@ath.co.uk
February 1.







COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 6: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon attended the press launch of The Great Scottish Walk at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence Royal Navy, afterwards attended the Scotland v Wales International match at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
February 7: Divine Service was held in West Newton Parish Church this morning.
The Reverend Canon George Hall preached the Sermon.
Mrs Graham Harrod was received by The Queen and was presented with the Bar to the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver) awarded to her late husband, Mr Graham Harrod.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bramson, senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 57; Professor Averil Cameron, FBA, Warden, Keble College, Oxford, 59; Miss Rachel Cusk, author, 32; Sir David Elliott, former civil servant, 69; Mr Osian Ellis, harpist, 71; Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, 86; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 84; Lady Howe of Aberavon, chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission, 67; Lord Jakobovits, 78; Mrs Diana Ladas, former Headmistress, Heathfield School, 86; Professor Ann Lambton, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Persian, London University, 87; Mr Murray Lawrence, former chairman, Lloyd's, 64; Mr Jack Lemmon, actor, 74; Mr Roger Lloyd Pack, actor, 55; Miss Morag Macdonald, former company secretary, Post Office, 52; Sir Francis McWilliams, former Lord Mayor of London, 73; Sir Kenneth Maddocks, former Governor, Fiji, 92; Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, 90; Dr June Paterson-Brown, Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale, 67; Lord Rayne, 81; Dame Laurie Salas, UN worker, 77; Sir Richard Southern, FBA, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 87; Mr G.J. Strowger, former managing director, Thorn Electrical Industries, 83; the Rev Dr John Tudor, former superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 69; Mr John T. Williams, composer of film scores, 67.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, patron, the Basic Skills Agency, will attend the British Council International reception at The Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2 at 6.30.

Dinners

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Mrs Diana Kingdon, President of the Women's Society of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, presided at a dinner held on Saturday at Dartmouth House. Baroness Uddin and Miss Angela Squires, president of the institute, were the guest speakers.

The English-Speaking Union
The English-Speaking Union held a dinner at Guildhall on Saturday to celebrate the final of the 11th World Schools Debating Championships, chaired by Cherie Booth, QC. Baroness Brigstocke, chairman of the union, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general, received the guests.

Elections

British Council
Mr Keith Vaz, MP, Ms Ffion Jenkins and Mr Gerard Lemos have been elected to the Board of the British Council.

Nature notes

IN THE north wind, robins find a perch that protects their backs and face south to let the low sun warm their breasts. By contrast, black-headed gulls out on a field or sitting on goalposts face the wind so that it does not ruffle their feathers.

Many winter visitors are still in Britain, including redwings. These small thrushes with a white eye-stripe and a red flash under their wing have started coming into gardens in the frost and snow.

Long-tailed tits, which are among the earliest nesters, are already prospecting for sites in hedges and gorse bushes: they are often very tame when they are doing this. More hedge sparrows are singing their thin, piping songs, and house sparrows are producing the long strings of chirps that pass for singing among them.


The long-tailed tit

Last summer's seeds are finally dispersing. Dry keys are blowing down from the ash trees, and crumbling clusters of hooked seeds on the burdock plants are catching onto dog fir and trousers. On hazel bushes, the long catkins are filling with yellow pollen and starting to swing in the wind, and small blueish-green leaves are opening on the climbing stems of honeysuckle. DJM

University news

Royal Holloway, University of London
This year, Royal Holloway, University of London is celebrating the *150th Anniversary of the Founding* of Bedford College, one of its constituent parent Colleges and the first higher education institution for women. The Sesquicentenary Celebrations begin on Wednesday, February 17, with the public Fawcett Lecture *150 Years of Enlightenment* by Baroness Warnock, at Senate House, Malet Street, WC1. Other events include public lectures, departmental reunions, a conference *Women & Brainpower*, the official opening of the Bedford Centre for the History of Women and the award of Honorary Fellowships and Degrees to women of distinction.

Celebratory Programmes for Alumni, Staff and Friends of Bedford College are avilable from Marta Baker, External Relations, RHBNC, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX (tel: 01784 443004).

Cambridge
Darwin College
The following elections have been made at Darwin College, Cambridge:
Finley Research Fellowship in Ancient History: Barbara Kowalzig, MA, MS.
Munby Visiting Fellowship in Bibliography for the academical year 1999-2000: Ian Anders Gadd, MA, MS.

Sir John Cass's Foundation

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Gavyn Arthur, attended the annual Sir John Cass's Foundation Founder's Day commemoration service held on February 5 at the Church of St Botolph-without-Aldgate, to mark the 338th Anniversary of the birth of the founder, Sir John Cass. The Rev B. Lee officiated.

Mr M. Venn, CBE, Treasurer, Professor R. Floud, Provost of London Guildhall University, the Rev C. Chessun, Rector of St Dunstan and All Saints', Stepney, and Mr P. Nove, QPM, Commissioner of the City of London Police, processed from the Foundation's offices to the church.

A reception was held afterwards in Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, Aldgate, when guests pledged the memory of the Founder.

Brighton College

Term started at Brighton College on January 4 and on Thursday, February 11, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, will deliver the Jubilee lecture entitled *Careers for Women in the Next Century* to mark 25 years of co-education at the College: all OB's and friends of Brighton College are welcome at 8pm. Other speakers at the College this term include Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Ms Virginia McKenna, Lord Baker of Dorking, CH, Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Professor Andrew Motion, Sir Roy Strong, Professor Jon Stallworthy, FBA, Dr Garret Fitzgerald and Mr Jimmy Hill, who recently relaunched football as a major sport at the College.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, MP, will be Guest of Honour on Speech Day, on Saturday, July 3. Commemoration and Graduation will be on Sunday, July 4.





John Lawson, the printer who paid the penalty for libelling Sir John Conroy, right

Jailing of printer recalled

BY JOHN VINCENT

A SILVER snuff box presented to the printer of *The Times*, on his release from prison after serving a one-month sentence for publishing a libellous article, has surfaced at auction after 160 years.

The unfortunate printer, John Joseph Lawson, was jailed on January 30, 1839, in the second year of Queen Victoria's reign, over an article casting aspersions on the purchase of an estate in Wales by Sir John Conroy. Lawson was the printer of *The Times*, responsible not only for the technical staff and equipment but also for the content of the paper.

According to a contemporary rule of court, he was convicted by a jury of "a certain misdemeanour in printing and publishing certain scandalous libels".

He was ordered to pay a fine "to our Lady the Queen of £200 of lawful money of Great Britain and that he be imprisoned in the custody of the Marshall of the Marshallsea of this court for the term of one calendar month now next ensuing . . ."

The presentation silver snuff box, hallmarked 1838, bears the inscription: "To J J Lawson Esq on the day of his liberation from the Queen's bench prison, from a very sincere friend, 28th February 1839."

The snuff box is being sold on February 17 by Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, by a woman who inherited it from a barrister. It is expected to fetch up to £650.

Church news

The Rev Dr Charles John Wykeham Hedley, Team Vicar of Gleadless in the Sheffield Diocese, has been appointed Rector of St James's, Piccadilly.

Other appointments include:

The Rev Karen Gorham, Assistant Curate, Northallerton w Kirby Sigston (York), to be Priest-in-Charge, Maidstone St Paul (Canterbury).

Canon Philip Groves, CMS Mission Partner, to be Team Vicar, Melton Mowbray (Leicester).

The Rev Graham Herbert, Chaplain, Monkton Combe School, Bath (Bath & Wells), to be Assistant Curate, Claygate Holy Trinity (Guildford).

The Rev John Hine, Priest-in-Charge, Great Broughton and Broughton Moor (Carlisle), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Brigham (same diocese).

The Rev Colin Hudspith, Curate, Barnstaple (Exeter), to be Vicar, Shirwell (same diocese).

The Rev Neil Kelley, Assistant Curate, Kirkby St Chad (Liverpool), to be Incumbent, Great Crosby St Faith w Waterloo St Mary (same diocese).

Canon Michael Kitchener, Warden, Rydal Hall, and Priest-in-Charge, Rydal (Carlisle), to be Director of Ordinands and Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich).

The Rev Alan Litton, Rector, Newchurch (Liverpool), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Croft w Southworth (same diocese).

The Rev Alison Montgomery, NSM, Ripon Holy Trinity (Ripon), to be also Warden of Readers (same diocese).

The Rev Graham Morris, Team Vicar, Bilston (Lichfield), to be Rector, Northwood St John the Baptist, and Vicar, Gurnard All Saints (Portsmouth).

The Rev Alan Murray, Curate, Mortomley St Saviour High Green (Sheffield), to be Priest-in-Charge, Doncaster St James.

The Rev David Peck, Curate, Weybridge (Guildford), to be Chaplain to the Bishop of Guildford.

The Rev Paul Rattigan, Assistant Curate, Parr St Peter (Liverpool), to be Vicar, St Helens St Matthew Thatto Heath (same diocese).

Canon Brian Robinson, Priest-in-Charge, Widnes St Mary, and Area Dean of Widnes (Liverpool), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Widnes St Paul (same diocese).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Burton, scholar, Lindley, Leicestershire, 1577; John Ruskin, writer, artist and social reformer, London, 1819; William Sherman, Union general in American Civil War, Lancaster, Ohio, 1820; Jules Verne, novelist, Nantes, 1828; Dmitri Mendeleyev, chemist, Tobolsk, Russia, 1834; Martin Buber, philosopher, Vienna, 1878; Dame Edith Evans, actress, London, 1888; King Vidor, film director, Galveston, Texas, 1894; James Dean, actor, Marian, Indiana, 1931.

DEATHS: Mary Queen of Scots, executed at Fotheringay Castle, Northamptonshire, 1587; Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia 1682-1725, St Petersburg, 1725; R.M. Ballantyne, novelist, Rome, 1894; Prince Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Dmitrov, Russia, 1921; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, Merton, Surrey, 1926; Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, architect, London, 1960.

A peaceful demonstration of the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, London, ended in rioting and looting, 1886.

Shergar, the Aga Khan's Derby winner, was kidnapped from a stable in Co Kildare and a ransom of £2 million was demanded, 1983.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Arnison-Newgass and Miss T.C. Reed
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Arnison-Newgass, of Romsey, Hampshire, and Tamara Claire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dallas Reed, of Durban, South Africa.

Mr A.J. Brett and Miss D.C. Judd
The engagement is announced between Alastair John, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Brett, of Shaftesbury, Dorset, and Diana Caroline, daughter of Mr Anthony Judd and the late Mrs Gloria Judd, of London NW6.

Dr D.L. Clift and Dr L.A. Arduino
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of the late Mr Leslie Clift and of Mrs Clift, of Parbold, Lancashire, and Lisa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Arduino, of Banstead, Surrey.

Mr M.J.W. Freeland and Miss A.E. Plommer
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of the late Mr Neil Freeland and of Mrs Neil Freeland, of Chipstead, Surrey, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs George Plommer, of Tonbridge, Kent.

Mr S.D.A. Griffiths and Miss H.D. Richmond
The engagement is announced between Steffan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Griffiths, of Lingfield, Surrey, and Harriet, only daughter of the Right Rev and Mrs Henry Richmond, of Oxford.

Mr J.M. Hogge and Miss K.P. Best
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Major General and Mrs Michael Hogge, of Brockham, Surrey, and Kathryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Best, of Windsor, Berkshire.

Mr D.A. Holdcroft and Miss N.E.A. Forsyth
The engagement is announced between Darren Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs T.G. Holdcroft, of Bearstone Mill, Market Drayton, Shropshire, and Nicola Elizabeth Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Forsyth, of Sheraton House, Irelands Cross, Woore, Cheshire.

Mr R.W. Kermode and Miss M. Carty
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Kermode, of Standlake, Oxfordshire, and Mairéad, daughter of Mrs Margaret Mary Carty and the late Mr John Carty, of North West London.

Mr S. Milligan and Miss V.A. Farrell
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs G. Milligan, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and Vickie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Farrell, of Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire.

Mr P.M. O'Connell and Dr A. Falconer
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of the late Mr Michael O'Connell and of Mrs O'Connell, of Claygate, Surrey, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Falconer, of Stockport.

Mr M.J. Hamilton and Miss J.R. Semple
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Dr and Mrs R.A. Hamilton, of Troon, and Joanna, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.F. Semple, of Glasgow.

Mr G.R. Thomson and Miss C. Head
The engagement is announced between Gavin Ross, only son of Mr and Mrs Ross Thomson, of Balcombe, West Sussex, and Caroline, only daughter and eldest child of Elsie Head and David Head, of Invercargill, New Zealand.

Mr N. Tyce and Miss H. Nimmo Smith
The engagement is announced between Nathaniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Tyce, of Maidstone, Kent, and Harriet, daughter of Lord and Lady Nimmo Smith, of Edinburgh.

Marriages

Major S.H. Cowen and Miss E.J. Holland
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Forthampton, Gloucestershire, of Major Stuart Cowen, The Blues and Royals, younger son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Robin Cowen, of Shawdon Hall, Northumberland, to Miss Elizabeth Holland, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Holland, of Chaceley Lodge, Chaceley. The Rev David Bowers officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily Broughton, Lucinda Bailey, Jemima Bailey, George Lane-Fox and Charlie Onslow. Mr Andrew Cowen was best man.

A guard of honour was found by Warrant Officers and non commissioned officers of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A. Dunn and Miss T. Aylward
The marriage took place on Friday, February 5, at The Manor House, The Green, Sidcup, between Mr Tony Dunn, son of Mrs Shirley Dunn, of Rotherhithe, London, and Mr Tony Dunn, of France, and Miss Tina Aylward, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Aylward, of Sidcup, Kent.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Emma Dunn and Lindsey Jones. Mr Lee Jiggins was best man. A reception was held at the Montrose Private Club, Sidcup, and the honeymoon is being spent in Cuba.

Mr C.D. Milling and Mrs E.M. Elliott
The marriage took place on Wednesday, February 3, 1999, between Mr Christopher Milling and Mrs Elizabeth (Libby) Elliott.

Mr J.M.A. Wilford and Ms S.A. Roth
The marriage took place yesterday, Sunday, February 7, 1999, at Cliveden, of Mr John Wilford, youngest son of Mrs Audrey Wilford and the late Mr Basil Wilford, of Stafford, to Ms Aviva Roth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Roth, of London.

The bride was attended by her children Natasha and Benjamin and by Mrs Isabel Arbisman. Mr Paul Slater was best man.

The honeymoon is being spent in South Africa.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. 1 Peter 3.15 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BAYLISS - On 4th February to Sarah and Jonathan, a daughter, Cecily Mary Elizabeth.

GARDNER - On February 3rd in Dubai, to Amanda (née Pearson) and Francis, a daughter, Sasha Sophia, a sister for Melissa.

HULME - On January 23rd at Derby City General Hospital to Ruth, a son Benjamin Hareley Davy.

LOYD - On February 3rd 1999, to Tara and James, a daughter, Eliza Rose, a sister for William.

ROPER - On January 29th 1999, to Rhyddian (née Willis) and Tony, a daughter, Poppy Elizabeth, a sister for William and Thomas.

DEATHS

ALIAGA-KELLY, - Christopher Michael on February 4th 1999 peacefully with his family at St. Richard's Hospital Chichester. Beloved husband of Cynthia and devoted father to Veronica (Bevan) Peter and the late Michael. Grandfather to Henry, Ben, Charlotte and Isabel. Requiem Mass at 11.00 am on Wednesday 10th February at St. Laurence's Church Petersfield and afterwards to Ireland. No flowers please, donations if wished to Friends of St. Richard's, St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, W. Sussex PO19 4SE.

BIRNAGE - Joy, beloved widow of Leslie and mother of Jean (Jenny), peacefully in her 98th year at Orchard House Nursing Home, Sutton on Thursday February 4th. Funeral at North East Surrey Crematorium Lower Morden Lane, Morden, Surrey at 2.00 pm on Thursday February 11th. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Friends of the Elderly c/o Truelove & Sons 118 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4RL.

BULLOCH - Died on 2nd February at Olney, Buckinghamshire, M.E.R. (Peter) Bulloch OBE aged 79, father of Nicholas and Claire grandfather of Sarah, Alastair, Alexander and Freddie, late of M.C.S and P.A. Northern Rhodesia and the S.I.T.B. Quiet family funeral as he wished.

DEATHS

BURT - On 2nd February after a short illness, Josephine Patricia (née Graham), widow of Oliver, aged 84 years. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday 12th February at 11 am. No flowers; donations if desired to the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund.

COOLE - Dorothy 4th February 1999 in her 97th year peacefully in a nursing home. Much loved by all her family and friends. Service and interment at St Lukes Church, Formby on Tuesday 9th February at 2.30 pm. All enquiries to Dean Bros. Tel: 01704 872023.

DUNN - Spencer James L.L.B. (Solicitor) late of Orleton (near Ludlow), Woking and Portsmouth. Peacefully in hospital on 2nd February 1999. Funeral at St. Lawrence's, Ludlow at 1.00 pm, Thursday 11th February 1999. No flowers, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

FARRELL - P.J. On 3rd February 1999 in her 90th year. Jo, widow of W.F. and mother of Robert, the late James (J.G.) and Richard. A much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium on Friday 12th February 1999 at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Defeating Deafness (The Hearing Research Trust), 330-332 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE.

HARPER - David Roy aged 49 years, suddenly on 30th January. Greatly loved husband of Sharon, née Halfhide, son of Roy and Peggy. The funeral service will take place at St Christopher's Church, Willingale on Monday 15th February 1999 at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation may be sent c/o Bennetts (Brentwood) Ltd., 120 High Street, Brentwood CM14 4AS.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HARRIS - Leslie S.L. of Finchley, London died peacefully on 3rd February 1999 after a short illness. Beloved husband, father and grandpa, sadly missed by Maggie, Martin, Mandy, Sarah, Becky and cousin Alan. 'To know him was to love him'. Funeral 12 noon, Monday 15th February at St Mary-at-Finchley, Hendon Lane, N3. Simple flowers or donations please to Barnardos, c/o J H Kenyon Funeral Directors, 6 Woodhouse Road, Finchley, London N12 0RG. 0181 445 1651.

HOWKINS - Eric Charles TD. FCA. Late of Brackley, Northants, on 31st January 1999 aged 82 years. Cremation at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, Buckinghamshire 11.30am on 11th February 1999. No flowers please. If desired, donations to Cancer Research c/o Heritage & Sons, 1a Bristle Hill, Buckingham.

KIRKALDY BA (Hons) - Cecily Margaret. Beloved and loving wife, mother and grandmother, died peacefully in the Royal Marsden Hospital London, after an illness bravely fought. The funeral will be held on Wednesday February 10th at Oak Hill College Chapel at 11.00am, followed by a private cremation. Flowers from close family only. Donations to the "Oak Hill Uganda Project" in Cecily's memory c/o the Bursar, Oak Hill College, Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 4PS

MEARNS - On February 4th 1999, Donald Howard FRCO, ARMCM, LRAM, aged 85 years, the dearly loved husband of Christine. Former tutor at The Royal Manchester College of Music and The Royal Northern College of Music. All enquiries to G Barlow & Sons Ltd., Union Street West, Oldham. Tel 0161 624 4301.

PEDUZZI - Tragically on 2nd February as the result of an accident, Anthony Mervyn Peduzzi, age 75 dear husband of Margaret, and father of Anthony and David. Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 10th February at 1.00p.m. followed by Cremation. Family flowers only. For donations to charity and other enquiries contact: A. France & Son LTD. W.C.1. 0171 405 4901

RIPLEY - Sidney Otway peacefully after a short illness on 5th February. Veteran Car enthusiast. Husband of the late Amy, father of the late Stella, grandfather of Peter, Andrew and Roger and great-grandfather of Lottie. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Thursday 11th February at 4 pm. Family flowers only, but any donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief would be appreciated, c/o Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne.

SALMON - Margaret Lillian peacefully in Winchester on February 4th aged 89. Beloved sister of Alec and greatly loved aunt and great-aunt. Former Matron of Du Boulays, Winchester College. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Winchester on Friday February 26th at 12.45 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Arthritis Research c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU.

THORN - Veronica Laura died peacefully at home on February 4th. Beloved wife of John and loving mother of James and Polly. Funeral in Winchester College Chapel on Thursday, February 11th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations for Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, c/o Jno. Steel & Son Ltd., Chesil House, Winchester.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BARNETT - Olive. A Service of Thanksgiving for Olive Barnett will be held at 12 noon on Thursday 11th March 1999 at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy London, Savoy Street, London WC2.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

GAGE - Linda. On every airwave always for Larry, family and friends.

HAGENBACH - Jan. Who gave so much, died Sunday 8th February 1998. DFD.

KNOWLING - In ever-loving memory of Ellen, wife of the Rev. Dr. Knowling, Canon of Durham. Feb. 8 1914.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
AIRLINES LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, P S Dunn and S R Thomas, of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kendrick Place, London, W1H 3FF were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 3rd February 1999.
P S DUNN & S R THOMAS
Joint Liquidators

No. of 07141 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF FRESSAC plc
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27 January 1999 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by the sum of £81,120,639 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 1 February 1999.
DATED this 8 day of February 1999
Eversheds
1 Royal Standard Place
Nottingham
NG1 6FZ
Tel: 0115 960 7000
Ref: 514/63707
Solicitors for the above named Company

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
Mackie International Group PLC
Registered number: 2956689
Former company name(s): None
Trading name(s): Mackie International Group PLC
Nature of business: Quoted Holding Company
Trade classification: 11
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 2 February 1999
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Ulster Bank Limited
Ulster Bank Markets Limited
Joint Administrative Receivers: Thomas M Keenan and Roger Powdrill
Office holder no(s): GBNI 012 and 4529
Address(es): of Deloitte & Touche, 19 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ
of Deloitte & Touche, 39 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2HZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

King Hussein of Jordan died in Amman of cancer yesterday aged 63. He was born on November 14, 1935, and succeeded his father as King on August 11, 1952.



Hussein bin Talal, the third ruler of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, could claim to be the longest-ruling monarch of his time and one of the most skilful politicians of the second half of the 20th century. He controlled the fortunes of his country for well over half its history, turning what was an artificial creation with few resources, little cohesion and an uncertain future into a modern, orderly and stable state.

During his time on the throne of Jordan, his tiny but strategically placed country often seemed to face extinction. Predatory neighbours, Middle East conflicts, Arab nationalism and civil war all threatened to destroy the country and the Hashemite monarchy. But each time Hussein held on and prevailed. By the time of his death, most Jordanians had known no other ruler. He gave his country an identity and a patriotic substance that made it, improbably, an oasis of moderation in a harsh desert of hatred. Most Jordanians knew that they were better ruled than almost all the Arabs around them.

King Hussein's international importance went far beyond his small, dusty country. Over four decades Jordan became the pivot on which depended, at various times, Israel's security, Iraq's economy, a Western role in the Middle East and the future of Arab nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism. For this reason, Hussein stood at the centre of all Middle Eastern politics. He was a frequent visitor to the White House and to Downing Street, a familiar figure at international gatherings and the funerals of world statesmen, a man whose unrivalled experience of politics gave him an authority and standing in direct contrast to his small physical stature.

By the 1990s he had also become a popular and respected figure in his own country. Millions lined the streets to welcome him home in 1992 after his first brush with cancer: even more turned out, with spontaneous displays of affection, when he returned again last month after six months at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to quell what he saw as dangerous dynastic squabbling. He had, since then, been compelled to go back to America for treatment, finally returning to Jordan when it was clear that there was no further remedy.

But his popularity was far from assured at the start of his reign when, as a boy King, he prematurely succeeded his father, Talal, who had been forced to abdicate on health grounds. His survival, and that of his kingdom, owed as much to his personal qualities as it did to Western military support in times of need or the new international legal system established with the United Nations. Above all, it was King Hussein's courage, intuition and political acumen in sensing which way the wind blew that saved him. In the Western world, he was the humane face of Arab tradition. By contrast, most Arabs suspected his loyalty, on account of his secret dealings with Israel and close relations with the West, particularly Britain and the United States. But by the end even his opponents admired his tenacity and his record of magnanimity. No ruler would have lasted so long in one of the world's most turbulent regions without his cunning; but few would have dared to spare the lives of the many ringleaders who plotted his assassination, murdered his advisers and tried to usurp his authority.

A "tightrope walker" was a description often applied to him. He was bullied by bigger neighbours, seemed always vulnerable, and was nearly always the underdog. In his early years, in the turbulent anti-Western atmosphere whipped up by Nasser and other Arab nationalists after Suez, he was the target of more than half a dozen assassination attempts — either by Syrian jet fighters trying to shoot down his plane or by plotters within the palace substituting acid for eyedrops or poison for toothpaste.

Had they succeeded, Jordan would almost certainly have been thrown into the pit of blood-letting that swallowed republican Iraq, Syria and Egypt. His radical critics might also have given a pretext to hardliners in Israel to seize a large part of the East Bank of the Jordan River, to expel the bulk of the Palestinians from the West Bank across the river, and to declare that Jordan was now Palestine and that the problem was solved.

Hussein bin Talal was born in November 1935, at a time when the newly created state of Jordan subsisted on a £12 million grant from Britain. His father, Crown Prince Talal, and his mother, Princess Zain, lived in a modest house with a single bathroom in Amman. Money was scarce — so much so that at one time Hussein was ordered to sell a bicycle that his cousin, the young King Faisal II of Iraq, had given him during a visit to Baghdad.

A more serious worry for the family was the growing moodiness and violence of his father, though only later were the symptoms recognised as those of schizophrenia. The King, Abdullah, misunderstood his son's problems and directed his affections towards his grandson. From an early age, the boy would be taken to Abdullah's presence to spend hours listening to reports and deliberations with advisers. For his primary and secondary education he was sent to a number of schools, including one in Alexandria, Egypt.

In 1948 Britain withdrew its forces from Palestine on the expiry of its League of Nations mandate, the Jews declared an independent state of their own, the Arabs around them invaded and were defeated, and King Abdullah annexed the West Bank and Arab-dominated East Jerusalem to Jordan. Passions ran high and, on Friday, July 20, 1951, Hussein saw his grandfather fall to a Palestinian assassin's bullet as they entered the Al Aqsa mosque on Temple Mount. It was for him, as he later wrote in his vivid autobiography *Uneasy Lies the Head*, a rite of passage. He learnt in that moment of grief and panic that there were enemies around him. He grew up quickly.

The crown passed to Abdullah's deteriorating son, and Hussein was sent to Britain, to be educated at Harrow, where King Faisal was already a pupil. There, by all accounts, he enjoyed being treated as a normal young man and displayed considerable spirit at rugby. But the respite was not to last. Back in Amman, his father's irrationality deepened, to the extent that Queen Zain and her younger children feared for their lives and refused to return from Europe. On August 11, 1952, the two Houses of Parliament in Amman dismissed Talal and declared the 16-year-old Hussein his successor.

Hussein returned to Jordan immediately and toured the country to show himself to the army and clan chiefs. Then he returned to Britain for a few months at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst to learn the rudiments of soldiering while he awaited his formal inauguration as King.

The future looked grim for the remaining monarchies of the Middle East. In Iran, the popular movement to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company had reduced the Shah to a titular role, while in Egypt a group of army officers had toppled King Farouk and planned to end ties with Britain. In Jordan itself, the ruling family lacked legitimacy in the eyes of most subjects, especially Palestinian refugees, who then formed a majority. The first King, Abdullah, was the son of the former Sharif of Mecca, driven out after Ibn Saud's conquest of the peninsula and installed by Britain as the ruler of the new state largely drawn up by Churchill to safeguard British interests in the area. Above all, the uprooting of large numbers of Arabs from Palestine and the widespread Arab sense of shame raised passions against all those who were seen as collaborators with outsiders — especially with Britain, the former mandate power.

The young King realised that his position was precarious. He moved swiftly to appoint a liberal Prime Minister and to hold relatively free elections, only to dismiss both when his critics won the majority of parliamentary seats and organised demonstrations against him. He dismissed Lieutenant-General Sir John Bagot Glubb, "Glubb Pasha", as commander of the army, the Arab Legion, and negotiated subsidies from his enemies, such as Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia, to replace the grant from Britain (though only the Saudis delivered their share). He declared his readiness to attack Israel after the Israeli invasion of the Sinai peninsula in the Suez crisis of 1956, but was dissuaded at the last minute by advisers who pointed out that the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty, which was still in place, would not protect him from Israeli retaliation.

Nevertheless, his critics were not satisfied. Cairo radio, which was popular in Jordan, regularly denounced him as "the Hashemite whore" and "the treacherous dwarf" for refusing to subsume his country in the new United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria. At home, he had to be on guard constantly against plotters in the army and assassins in the palace. Students made a regular habit of burning the Jordanian flag.

To opponents of the Hashemites, the Royal Family appeared always to put its own dynastic interests before the greater Arab cause; Hussein's defence — that Israel could not be defeated militarily — although true, was seen as pretext. Some members of the family infuriated the King himself in their rush to gather wealth. Hussein on more than one occasion admonished the most disliked, his powerful maternal uncle, Nasser bin Jamil, for his shady business dealings and lucrative monopolies.

The decade after the Suez crisis was one of survival and consolidation for Hussein. He struck back at the President of the United Arab Republic, Gamal Abdel Nasser, for "hiding behind UN armistice lines while criticising smaller states for not attacking Israel", and he survived the murder of his cousin, King Faisal II, in Iraq's military coup of July 1958, when Britain rushed troops to Jordan to bolster its morale. Before the coup, Hussein had united his country with Iraq to counter the United Arab Republic, and had even placed his army under Iraqi command.

When the Six-Day War of June 1967 erupted, Hussein faced an agonising dilemma. He knew full well that his country was no match for Israel, and that if he were to fight he would certainly be defeated and lose part of his kingdom. Yet such were the popular pressures that he could not stand aside. The result was the tragedy he predicted, particularly for the Palestinians of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Never again was Hussein to hold sway over the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, a fact that continued to wound him for many years.

The next big crisis in his life proved almost as traumatic. Under Yassir Arafat, the newly invigorated Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expanded its network widely in Jordan. By 1970 the *fedayeen* were virtually a state within a state, manning roadblocks and even levying taxes on thousands of Palestinian refugees in the country. PLO raids on Israeli targets across the ceasefire line provoked devastating Israeli retaliation against Jordanian villages. Such activity was a threat to Jordan on yet another level. Israel had at that time a secret plan to manufacture an incident to enable it to annexe the East Bank, to which it would then expel the the Palestinians of the West Bank, setting up a Palestinian state as a solution to its internal problems. It had been restrained from doing so only by repeated warnings from the United States, the personal friendship of whose Presidents Hussein had worked hard to gain.

The final straw came with the Palestinian hijacking of Western planes and the stand-off in the Jordan desert, where they landed and were finally blown up. Hussein was humiliated. The Jordan Army surrounded Dawson's Field, but could do nothing. On September 15, Hussein acted. He issued an ultimatum to the *fedayeen*, handed over power to the army, and tanks entered Amman on September 17, beginning the devastating civil war known afterwards as "Black September". The largely Beduin army was brutal in pursuit of the guerrillas; the Palestinian civil population was cowed and afraid. At the height of the fighting, Syria sent tanks across the border. But the Jordan forces fought back fiercely, and the Syrians turned back. "We gave them a bloody nose," Hussein later said.

The conflict nevertheless caused consternation among Arab nationalists throughout the Middle East. Jordan was ostracised, and its monarch became a figure of hatred. The PLO was driven out of Jordan, but its terrorist operations were given a new boost. King Hussein moved swiftly to try to repair the damage, but relations inside the kingdom were tense, and the security services were given a free hand. They did not prevent the assassination of Wasfi al-Tal, the Jordanian Prime Minister and a close friend of the King, in 1971 in Cairo. But a spate of counter-assassinations, many by Israeli Intelligence, also weakened the PLO, which abandoned the strategy of raids across the Israeli border.

Concentrating on his own country's security, Hussein was in no position — or mood — to join the wider struggle against Israel. In October 1973, when war came with a surprise attack across the Suez Canal and in the Golan Heights, Hussein was not consulted in advance. He sent only a token brigade up to the Golan Heights: ironically it was the 40th Armoured Brigade which had fought so hard against the Syrian tanks.

The Yom Kippur War set the course of many later events in the region. It was fought, for the first time, without the backing of the Soviet Union — President Sadat having previously expelled all Soviet military advisers from Egypt — and it was the only war in which the Egyptian Army acquitted itself reasonably well. It paved the way for Henry Kissinger's surprise visit to Egypt, the rapid cooling of relations with Syria, President Sadat's decision to go it alone by visiting the Israeli Knesset in 1977 and the subsequent Camp David agreements of 1978.

Following the agreements, the American President, Jimmy Carter, urged King Hussein to follow suit and sign a similar bilateral peace treaty with Israel. But such was the anger in the Arab world for what it saw as betrayal by Egypt that he did not dare.

The war of 1973 had yet another consequence for Jordan. The Arab summit of October 1974 decided to recognise the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinian people. That decision hurt King Hussein personally, as well as politically. His family's legitimacy as a dynasty rested on its claim to descend from the Prophet Muhammad, and he cherished his guardianship of the holy places of Islam in East Jerusalem. Now these were being taken away from him. He protested, but accepted the decision with grace. In return, Hussein set aside his bitter feud with Arafat — though there was no love lost between them.

After the Iraqi invasion of Iran in September 1980, which followed the toppling of King Hussein's long-time friend Shah Mohammad Reza by Muslim and left-wing radicals, he stepped in quickly on Iraq's side to make up for the closure of the Gulf to Iraqi shipping. Subsequently, for eight years, he turned Jordan into Iraq's main supply route and the Jordanian commercial class, including the Royal Family, reaped rich rewards. Later, King Hussein placed his political hopes in Saddam Hussein's advancement on the Arab scene and consistently supported the Iraqi ruler in his quest to dominate Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It was a fatal friendship, that was later to cost the King dear.

The second Gulf War of 1991, in which 29 nations, including many Arab ones, sent forces to Saudi Arabia to liberate Kuwait from the grip of Saddam Hussein, endeared King Hussein to Arab nationalists. While saying that the annexation of a sovereign country was unacceptable, he refused to condemn Saddam's action and opposed the dispatch of American and British aircraft to Saudi Arabia. He described the invasion as "understandable", and called for negotiation with Saddam. He even hailed the fantastic demand of the Iraqi ruler — the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian-occupied territories in return for talks over Kuwait — as "laudable, legitimate and realistic".

During the brief war, thousands of Palestinian workers left the Gulf for, or were expelled to, Jordan, and the oil-rich states, hitherto the main suppliers of cash to King Hussein, ended all their support to him. The United States President, George Bush, although furious with Hussein's "betrayal", decided quickly to forgive him. Jordan's co-operation was needed for a new Middle East peace conference that Washington was planning for Madrid later in the year.

King Hussein was later to describe his attempt to stop the war and to intercede with Saddam as one of the hardest and most painful of his life. He knew by then that Saddam was the kind of tyrant intent on keeping hold of his conquests, and that the West would go to war. But support for Iraq was overwhelming in Jordan. Had the King not attempted to ward off conflict, his throne would have been in danger. In the end he gave only verbal support to Iraq, and did nothing to help Saddam militarily. But it was enough to infuriate the Kuwaitis and Saudis. The Saudi Royal Family had long been suspicious of King Hussein's dynastic claims, and was determined to exploit his difficulties. Aid to Jordan was stopped immediately. Hussein was snubbed. It took almost eight years before Saudi Arabia restored normal relations again, and Kuwait held out even longer.

Hussein played a quiet but forceful role in trying to get the proposed Madrid peace conference off the ground. He persuaded prominent West Bankers to hold direct talks with Israel as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and although the Madrid conference failed to achieve a breakthrough, it paved the way for a regular dialogue between Israel and its neighbours.

Meanwhile, the Norwegians had set up a secret secondary channel. The PLO and the new Labour Government of Israel held secret talks for more than a year, which led to the astonishing news of their mutual recognition. Suddenly, Israelis appeared ready to negotiate directly with Arafat, and he with them. Jordan was cut out of the picture. When these talks were revealed to the world in 1993, it was an unpleasant surprise for King Hussein, and he feared that Jordan was again being sidelined. But he accepted the setback with grace, once again, and he proceeded to sign his own, highly unpopular peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

After that he lent his presence to high-profile occasions in an attempt to keep moving along the bumpy path of peace. For this, he won the admiration of many millions of people all over the world, especially in Israel, where even the Likud came to see him as indispensable for regional peace. His speech at the funeral of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin surprised the Israelis by its warmth, visionary idealism and hopes for reconciliation. His use of the word "brother" particularly touched Israeli public opinion, and arguably laid to rest many old suspicions of Arab intentions — although it evoked just as many in the Arab world. The King also visited the homes of Israeli victims of Jordanian terrorists, and in October 1998 he intervened in the Israeli-Palestinian talks at Wye Plantation in the United States, despite already appearing to be in the last stages of cancer.

King Hussein's enduring characteristics were courage, modesty and humour — the last owing something, perhaps, to his British education. Interviewers were always taken aback by his calling them "Sir". But he also had a charisma and a pride that placed him very much in the line of earlier — absolute — monarchs. The difference was Hussein's magnanimity, which again and again set the example for a political system which, despite being a royal dictatorship, was certainly benign. King Hussein had a patriarchal belief that his country was like his family, and felt it his duty to educate it and lead it to political maturity. But he never doubted that he should be at its head as a King in power as well as name. He was a noted pilot, and often flew himself around the world, famously dipping his wings once in salute as he flew over Israel after concluding the peace agreement.

He dies at a time when the future of Jordan looks more secure than at any other period in his long reign, though the final dramatic disinheritance of his brother Hassan, Crown Prince since 1965, caused considerable alarm. Prince Abdullah, who was nominated in his place during the dramatic week when the King returned from the Mayo Clinic in January, has the all-important support of the army; and Prince Hassan appears, at least for now, to have accepted his disinheritance with equanimity.

King Hussein, with a young taste for fast living, pretty girls and daredevil, almost impish, behaviour, was married four times. The first, unhappy brief marriage to Princess Dina ended quickly in divorce. His marriage to Toni Gardiner, the daughter of a British Army officer, was a political risk, because she was an English Christian. Becoming a Muslim and taking the name Princess Muna, she brought him great happiness and four children. Their marriage ended in a surprisingly amicable divorce, and Hussein then married Alia Toukan, the daughter of a prominent Palestinian family. He loved her deeply, but the short marriage — which produced three children — ended in tragedy when she was killed in a helicopter accident. He was devastated.

His final marriage was to Lisa Halaby, the daughter of a wealthy Christian Lebanese-American chairman of Pan Am. She converted, became Queen Noor, and was a visible and prominent "modern" Queen, with some of the glamour and flair for publicity that we associate with the late Princess of Wales. She, too, bore him four children.

Latest wills

Lady **Rogers**, wife of Sir Frank Rogers, director of *The Daily Telegraph*, left estate valued at £1,335,707 net.

The Hon Dinah **Bridge**, of Lewes, East Sussex, left estate valued at £904,817 net. She left £1,000 to Morpeth Society Housing Association.

Sir John **Stephenson**, Lord Justice of Appeal 1971-85, left estate valued at £642,824 net.

The Hon Lady **Lyell**, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £4,185,825 net. She left £1,000 to the Flamstead PCC.

Noel Whitaker **Harrison**, of Alrewas, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £39,541,187 net.

Myrtle Violet **Willis**, of Bullington, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, left estate valued at £1,664,417 net. She left £1,000 to the Winchester Hospital Scanner Appeal.

Christopher Paul Mansel **Methuen-Campbell** of Reynoldston, Gower, Swansea, left estate valued at £3,248,385 net.

Mary Elizabeth **Johnston**, of Sway, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,600,728 net.

Elizabeth Nancy **MacNab**, of Rugby, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £2,489,568.

Margaret **Nicholson** of London SW1, left estate valued at £2,288,107 net.

Jakob Walter **Robinson**, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,666,357 net.

Air Marshal Sir John **Baker-Carr**, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, left estate valued at £286,792 net.

Marion Sybil **Beatty**, of Exmouth Devon, left estate valued at £1,180,088 net. She left £1,000 each to Barnardo's, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid, John A Thompson Memorial Trust, Fairlynch Museum and National Trust.

Lieutenant-Commander Mark Hamilton Freer **Chaytor** of Ashton, Sheffield, left estate valued at £1,536,251.

Mildred Louise **Duveen** of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,638,105 net.

Robert **Lush** of London SW1, left estate valued at £1,225,174.

Hector Donald Elston **Macvitie**, of Bath, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,595,846 net.

Mary **Margerison** of Lytham, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,427,653 net. She left £1,000 to both the Friends of Lytham Hospital and St John's Church, East Beach, Lytham, and £500 to the Church of England.

Frank **Peagram** of Salisbury Green, Southampton, left estate valued at £1,904,723 net.

Iris Dorothea Rocksborough **Smith**, of Briantspuddle, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,423,308 net. She left £3,000 each to National Trust, British Red Cross Society and Dorset Hospice Charitable Trust.

John Arthur **Smith**, of Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,560,658 net.

Peter William Oliver **Ward** of Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, left estate valued at £1,081,203 net.

Bertha Elizabeth **Watkin**, of Oswestry, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,204,508 net.

Elspeth **Whitmore**, of Hartfield, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,833,553 net.

John Penry **Williams**, of Portdinorwic, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,151,393 net.

Doris Alice **Wright**, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, left estate valued at £2,305,834 net.

Esra Sami Menashi **Zilouf** of London N20, left estate valued at £2,133,899 net.

ON THIS DAY

February 8, 1991

The blast from this audacious raid by the IRA shook the windows of Buckingham Palace: a crater about four feet wide appeared in the garden of No 10.

CABINET ESCAPES BOMB BLAST

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND YARD was last night hunting a two-man terrorist team which bombed 10 Downing Street with mortars from a van as the war cabinet met yesterday morning. The attack was one of the most audacious ever carried out by the IRA.

One bomb exploded in the garden, breaking windows, disrupting the meeting and throwing Whitehall into panic. Two other bombs landed without exploding behind the Foreign Office.

Four people, including two policemen, were slightly injured in the incident, which brought the IRA as close to the heart of British government as the Brighton bomb in 1984. In the aftermath of the blast, ministers began an urgent examination of security in Whitehall and Westminster.

In a statement from Dublin last night claiming responsibility for the attack, the IRA said: "The operation had been planned over a number of months. Its inception predates both John Major's coming to power and the beginning of British involvement in the Gulf War. Whether the Gulf War goes on for weeks or years, let the British Government understand that, while nationalist people in the six counties are forced to live under British rule, then the British cabinet will be forced to meet in bunkers."

Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, sent Mr Major a message expressing "shock and sympathy" at the outrage.

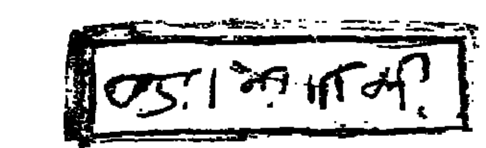
As a national police hunt began for the bombers, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch and the national co-ordinator of terrorist investigations, told a conference in London that the attack had been daring and well-planned. "It is an example of how good and versatile this organisation is," he said, but added that the plan had been badly executed. "These mortars are extremely dangerous and very inaccurate. It is a typical example of a cowardly attack which could have caused death or severe injury."

A white Ford Transit van, bought in south London six months ago, was driven up to the junction of Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall close to the Ministry of Defence. The roof of the van had been removed and a platform had been built inside for a crude mortar unit using metal piping. The roof had been put back in place, secured with tape, and the mortars were covered with sheeting.

The van was abandoned at an angle. The driver locked it and is thought to have jumped onto the pillion seat of a waiting motorcycle, which sped off towards the Embankment. No parking is allowed in Whitehall and the three bombs were fired through the roof as a policeman went towards the van.

Within seconds the vehicle exploded in a ball of fire. The mortar used a short fuse and one police source last night said the IRA "had timed the attack to perfection".

One bomb went off in the communal garden behind Nos 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street, creating a bang that could be heard up to 12 miles away, and a cherry tree was blasted out of the ground about 40ft from where Mr Major was sitting . . .



NEWS

Security blitz for Hussein funeral

■ A massive security operation is being mounted in Jordan to protect Western leaders attending the state funeral for King Hussein from possible attacks by Iraqi agents in revenge for the recent bombing of Baghdad.
Western security experts fear that Tony Blair and US President Bill Clinton could be targets for hit squads formed from Iraqi agents inside the Hashemite kingdom .... Pages 1, 11-13

Lawrence suspects may face charges

■ Detectives have been ordered to find new charges against the five men suspected of the murder of Stephen Lawrence six years ago. Three of the five men were acquitted two years ago during a private prosecution for murder by the Lawrence family. The other two were never committed for trial after a magistrate ruled that there was insufficient evidence .... Pages 1, 3

Karaoke classics

Karaoke for classical music lovers is on its way. *La donna e mobile* from Verdi's *Rigoletto* is among 140 arias from 58 French and Italian operas being issued on ten CD-Rom discs .... Page 1

Big cars, big taxes

Company car drivers who opt for big cars with low fuel efficiency are to be penalised under new taxation rules proposed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor ...... Page 2

Food cynics

Most people do not trust ministers to make the right decisions for them on such issues as beef on the bone or genetically altered food, a new government-funded poll shows .... Page 2

Police under scrutiny

Scotland Yard's anti-corruption detectives are investigating more than 350 potential miscarriages of justice linked to allegedly crooked officers .... Page 3

Companies shamed

A league table of companies accused of producing the greatest air pollution has been produced by Friends of the Earth to fire up *opposition to polluters* ...... Page 4

Female troops thrive

A controversial decision to introduce the first all-female platoons *at the Army's biggest training* centre has resulted in a dramatic improvement in pass rates and a reduction in injuries .... Page 5

Whitehall jobs push

The Government is being urged to appoint blacks and Asians to *key senior positions in Whitehall* and the Diplomatic Service as part of a drive to combat discrimination and racism .... Page 6

Pension link to sack

Men who join company pension schemes are 50 per cent more likely to lose their jobs involuntarily than those who do not, a study shows .... Page 7

'Free chimps' fight

Campaigners called for the release of four chimpanzees still under the care of trainer Mary Chipperfield, who has been convicted of cruelty .... Page 7

Smear test trauma

The victim of a smear test mistake has told how it led her into a spiral of drinking and depression and came close to wrecking her marriage .... Page 8

Zimbabwe in crisis

Zimbabwe was in the grip of its gravest constitutional crisis since 1980 after President Mugabe accused Britain of infiltrating agents and threatened to dismiss judges .... Page 9

Blast rocks talks

The first tentative steps towards any peace deal between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and *Serbian* and Yugoslav officials remained hidden behind the gates of Chateau Rambouillet .... Page 10

Pilgrims return to forbidden shrine

An ancient pilgrims' route from Cornwall to the sacred shrine of St James is being revived for the first time since the Reformation. In May, 25 pilgrims will set off from the port of Fowey aboard two sailing ships bound for northern Spain. They will retrace the path of thousands of pilgrims who made the journey to La Coruna until it was ended by Henry VIII .... Page 6



John Whitelaw, left, Stuart Dickson and Terry and Ann Pollard took their right-to-roam fight to the Scottish border yesterday. Page 6

Clinton's angels: A few weeks ago, the two women were unknown outside Washington legal circles. Now Cheryl Mills and Nicole Seligman have become the most famous female lawyers in America as they try to keep President Clinton in office .... Page 16

Same again: Why a British couple are saying "yes" to the idea of having a cloned baby, a genetic carbon copy of one parent .... Page 16

Sensible chaps: menswear collections for the millennium reveal practical, *mix-and-match styles*, eschewing unwearable creations for a blend of traditional tailoring in quality fabrics with sportswear and casual garments .... Pages 14-15

Delisting worries: Up to 800 small companies with a combined value equalling that of the BP-Amoco giant may soon be forced out of the equity markets because of an investment starvation .... Page 48

Millennium bug: Crisis meetings are being held over warnings that the £13 billion venture capital market could dry up later this year because of worries about the millennium bug .... Page 48

BMW's Milberg: The profile of the man who has to decide the fate of the Longbridge plant .... Page 46

London Underground: London Transport is seeking private funds to extend the Underground into South East London — an area that has previously been largely shunned by the Tube .... Page 44

Take three girls: The trio who make up the cabaret act Fascinating Aida talk about Viagra, Aussie humour and their West End show, *Barefaced Chic* .... Page 17

Hip hop mother: She was last seen in Britain as part of the Fugees, but in Brixton at the weekend Lauryn Hill was on her own — and the crowd loved her .... Page 17

Thorny rose: In Glasgow David McVicar unveils his new staging of Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, giving Rodney Milnes something to think about .... Page 19

Not to scale: The American soprano Deborah Polaski has gained a huge following in the opera house, but the intimate spotlight of a London recital revealed shortcomings .... Page 19

Cricket: Anil Kumble, the Indian leg spin bowler, became only the second man in Test history to take all ten wickets in an innings as his team beat Pakistan ..... Pages 25, 26

Football: Derby County moved up to sixth place and increased the relegation fears of Everton with a 2-1 win in the FA Carling Premiership match .... Page 28

Rugby union: Bath suffered their worst defeat in the history of league competition when they were beaten 35-0 by Bath .... Page 36

Racing: Florida Pearl strengthened his position as favourite for the *Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup* next month with an emphatic victory at Leopardstown .... Page 38

Football: Howard Wilkinson, the England caretaker manager, last night discovered that several of his squad were suffering with injuries *when they reported for duty before* the match against France on Wednesday .... Page 27

Rambouillet is not Dayton. The main difference is that this time it is the Europeans who are trying to stop conflict in the Balkans. But the *Europeans know that no major international crisis can be resolved* without American participation. Two thousand GIs are worth more than 2000 European troops, not because they have more courage, but because they are backed by the world's only superpower.
Corriere Della Sera, Milan

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **LIFTOUT**
Leadership in the next century: what are the qualities needed?

■ **LAW**
Why not let cameras into the Lockerbie trial?

Preview: Paul Kenyon investigates the truth behind shoddy workmanship from supposedly reputable firms. *Raising the Roof* (BBC2, 8pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart explores the *small crop of new series* which began at the weekend, including *In Search of Law and Order* (Channel 4) .... Pages 46, 47

Abdullah's inheritance

While Saddam Hussein still runs Iraq, Jordan will be caught between the United States and strong popular sentiment among much of its own population .... Page 21

To the aid of the party

International aid is a natural candidate for true radicalism. This sadly limp effort should have been shredded by William Hague before it saw daylight .... Page 21

Eroding the bedrock

Britain's net curtains are twitching. Urban decay, usually associated *with inner cities, is spreading into* parts of suburbia .... Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Quite possibly Longbridge will eventually be closed by Ford or General Motors, as part of a review of the BMW plants after an American takeover .... Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

The point in Russia is to overwhelm the interlocutor so that you emerge victorious as the more Soviet, the more petty, the more steeped in officialdom .... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

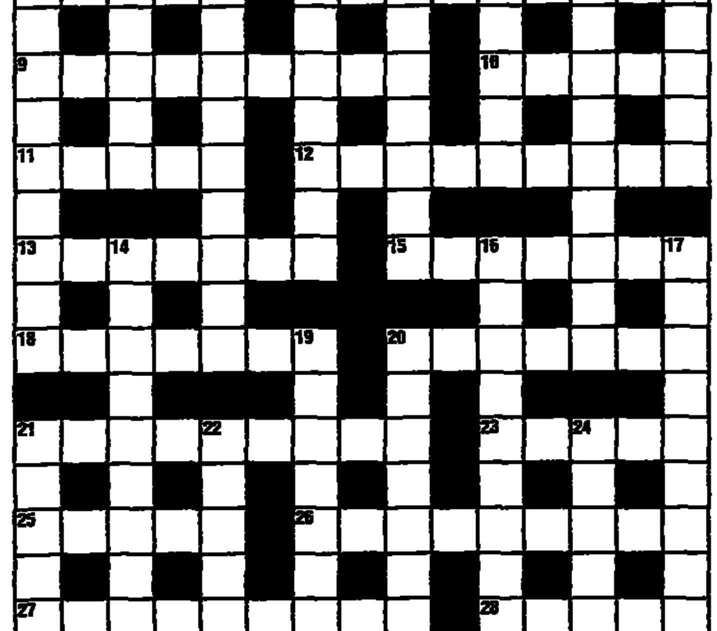
Constitutional reform is by far the most radical of all new Labour's programmes, and absorbs the most parliamentary time. But you would *hardly guess so from listening to* most ministers .... Page 20

King Hussein of Jordan .... Page 23

Cost of improving railways; teachers' performance and pay; relics of St Valentine; healthcare rationing; importance of EU veto; Celtic literature; Aldeburgh airport; byways in peril; middle age .... Page 21

2, 17, 23, 38, 40, 49 Bonus: 10
Five winners shared the £8.1 million jackpot in Saturday's National Lottery draw.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,021



ACROSS
1 *Jazz group formed by bandleader* in Italian city (5).
4 California city bank (9).
9 *Broken a leg? Asian provides* pain relief (9).
10 E.g. Marner's cry for mercy be*fore being finally driven out* (5).
11 Articles about transport system, in archaic language (5).
12 *Rich girl going in for economical* living (9).
13 Escaping from its pressure pro*duces fine outcome* (7).
15 The way horses used to draw barges (7).
18 *Spell in prison finished by fall* (7).
20 But these are not the sort of waves they produce (7).
21 *Place for purifying liquid not full* yet? (5,4).
23 Noodles, possibly, in "Dad's Army" (5).
25 Hostile reaction driving leader of *Philharmonic from rostrum* (5).
26 Tip for striking gold, ideally (9).
27 Asian hiding new counterfeit *note in luggage* (9).
28 Like a luxurious hotel run by Italian unknowns (5).

DOWN
1 Coach and horse in near-accident (9).
2 Pale ale being drunk, in my case (5).
3 Musician endlessly upset about arranger (9).
4 Relaxing change from fluster (7).
5 It may carry some way across the valley (7).
6 Rhythmic dance requiring some drum backing (5).
7 Prompt rise for fighting man entering with ceremony (9).
8 Energy Lear's uncle displayed in youth (5).
14 Performance – tear one into pieces (9).
16 Resolution of sick prisoner held by Western monarch (9).
17 Hard lines about American music group's management (9).
19 *Irreverent academic with an English base* (7).
20 Some err badly, giving rise to deep regret (7).
21 Seneca, for one, about to write thus (5).
22 Black car outside, in state of neglect (5).
24 Roused to ecstasy, say, presenting bouquet (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,020 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 308
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax — The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 335	London	416 342
Midlands	416 336	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
East Anglia	416 337		
N West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		

Metfax Marine
Inshore leisure forecasts 416 398

World City Weather — The Met. Office
153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast
by Phone dial 0336 411216
by Fax (index page) 0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax
new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

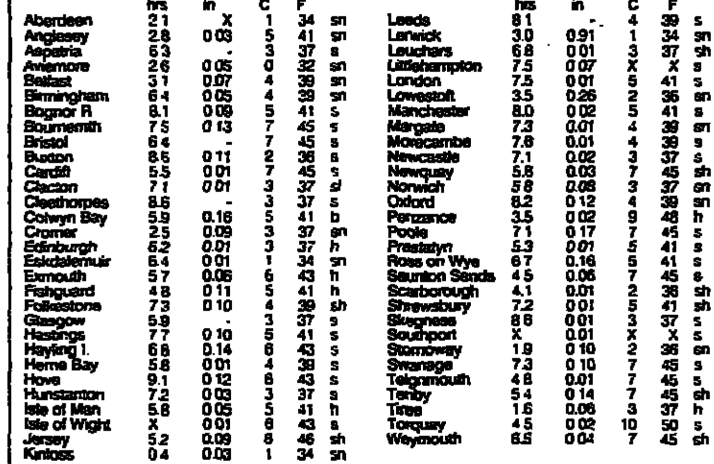
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.28 am — Sun sets: 5.01 pm
Moon sets: 10.54 am — Moon rises: 12.37 am
Last quarter: Today
London 5.01 pm to 7.26 am
Bristol 5.12 pm to 7.36 am
Edinburgh 5.00 pm to 7.52 am
Manchester 5.05 pm to 7.41 am
Penzance 5.27 pm to 7.44 am



Books for Schools token inside

☐ **General:** very cold with widespread early frost. Snow showers in Scotland, northern England and Wales, some significant falls on hills. Rain or sleet further south.
☐ **London, SE England:** cold, thickening cloud bringing rain or sleet. Freshening westerly wind. Max 5C (41F)
☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, Central N, NE & E England:** cold, sunny spells and sleet or snow showers. Moderate northwesterly wind. Max 4C (39F)
☐ **Central S & SW England, Channel Islands:** turning cloudy, with sleet or snow followed by rain. Freshening westerly wind. Max 7C (45F)
☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District:** heavy rain later with snow possible for a time, especially over higher ground. Light variable wind. Max 5C (41F)
☐ **Isle of Man, Northern Ireland:** early snow turning to rain. Light variable wind, becoming fresh northwesterly. Max 5C (41F)
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** very cold, snow likely, especially in west. Light variable wind turning moderate northeasterly. Max 4C (39F)
☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW & NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** very cold with frequent snow showers. Fresh northerly wind. Max 3C (37F)
☐ **Irish Republic:** cold and overcast. Snow, rain or sleet turning to brighter periods with coastal wintry showers. Light northwesterly wind. Max 5C (41F)
☐ **Outlook:** cold with sunny spells and wintry showers.



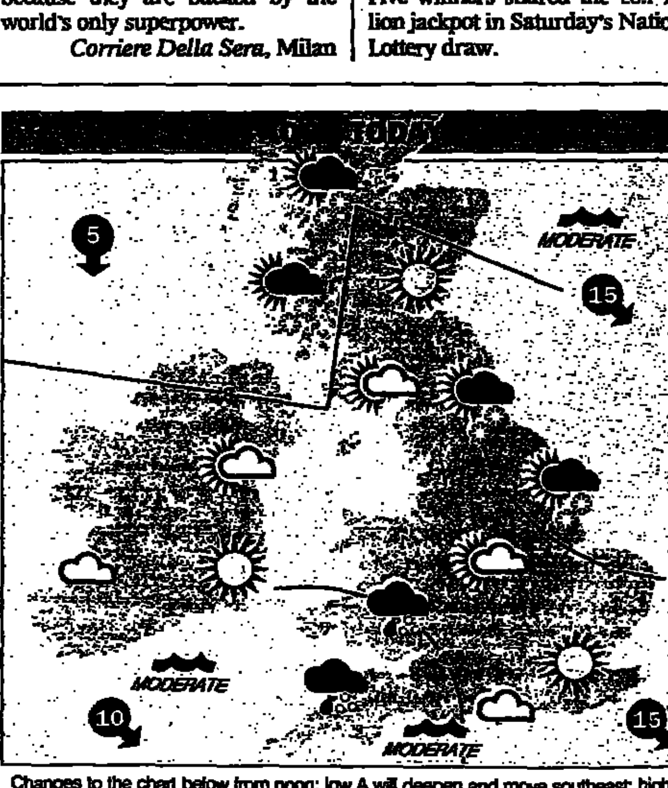
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.1	X	1	34	sn
Anglesey	2.8	0.03	5	41	sn
Aspatria	6.3	-	3	37	s
Aviemore	2.6	0.05	0	32	sn
Belfast	3.1	0.07	4	39	sn
Birmingham	6.4	0.05	4	39	sn
Bognor R	8.1	0.09	5	41	s
Bournemth	7.5	0.13	7	45	s
Bristol	6.4	-	7	45	s
Buxton	8.6	0.11	2	36	s
Cardiff	5.5	0.01	7	45	s
Clacton	7.1	0.01	3	37	sl
Cleethorpes	8.6	-	3	37	s
Colwyn Bay	5.9	0.16	5	41	b
Cromer	2.5	0.09	3	37	sn
Edinburgh	6.2	0.01	3	37	h
Eskdalemuir	6.4	0.01	1	34	sn
Exmouth	5.7	0.06	6	43	h
Fishguard	4.8	0.11	5	41	h
Folkestone	7.3	0.10	4	39	sh
Glasgow	5.9	-	3	37	s
Hastings	7.7	0.10	5	41	s
Hayling I.	6.6	0.14	6	43	s
Herne Bay	5.8	0.01	4	39	s
Hove	9.1	0.12	6	43	s
Hunstanton	7.2	0.03	3	37	s
Isle of Man	5.8	0.05	5	41	h
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	6	43	s
Jersey	5.2	0.09	8	46	sh
Kinloss	0.4	0.03	1	34	sn
Leeds	8.1	-	4	39	s
Lerwick	3.0	0.91	1	34	sn
Leuchars	6.8	0.01	3	37	sh
Littlehampton	7.5	0.07	X	X	s
London	7.5	0.01	5	41	s
Lowestoft	3.5	0.26	2	36	sn
Manchester	8.0	0.02	5	41	s
Margate	7.3	0.01	4	39	sn
Morecambe	7.6	0.01	4	39	s
Newcastle	7.1	0.02	3	37	s
Newquay	5.8	0.03	7	45	sh
Norwich	5.8	0.08	3	37	sn
Oxford	8.2	0.12	4	39	sn
Penzance	3.5	0.02	9	48	h
Poole	7.1	0.17	7	45	s
Prestatyn	5.3	0.01	5	41	s
Ross on Wye	6.7	0.16	5	41	s
Saunton Sands	4.5	0.06	7	45	s
Scarborough	4.1	0.01	2	36	sh
Shrewsbury	7.2	0.01	5	41	sh
Skegness	8.6	0.01	3	37	s
Southport	X	0.01	X	X	s
Stornoway	1.9	0.10	2	36	sn
Swanage	7.3	0.10	7	45	s
Teignmouth	4.8	0.01	7	45	s
Tenby	5.4	0.14	7	45	sh
Tiree	1.6	0.08	3	37	h
Torquay	4.5	0.02	10	50	s
Weymouth	6.5	0.04	7	45	sh

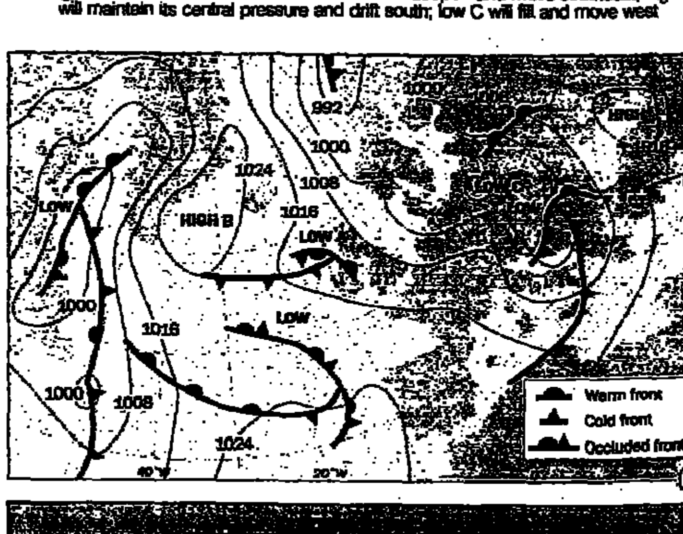
Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay 10C 50F; lowest day max: Inverbervie, Aberdeenshire, -1C 30F; highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.91ins; highest sunshine: Hove (East Sussex) 9.1hrs.

	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f
Akrotiri	10	50	s
Alex'dria	17	63	s
Algiers	14	57	f
Amst'dm	7	45	f
Athens	13	55	s
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	28	82	s
Barbados	28	82	s
Barcelona	15	59	s
Beijing	10	50	s
Beirut	12	54	f
Belgrade	7	45	f
Berlin	3	37	c
Bermuda	18	64	c
Biarritz	11	52	c
Bordeaux	11	52	c
Brussels	4	39	r
Budapest	7	45	c
B Aires	29	84	s
Cairo	19	66	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s
Chicago	1	34	f
Chrchurch	21	70	s
Cologne	5	41	c
C'phagn	5	41	f
Corfu	13	55	f
Dublin	8	46	f
Dubrovnik	11	52	s
Faro	16	61	s
Florence	10	50	f
Frankfurt	3	37	r
Funchal	17	63	f
Geneva	6	43	r
Gibraltar	17	63	s
Helsinki	-1	30	f
Hong K	17	63	s
Innsbruck	6	43	c
Istanbul	7	45	s
Jeddah	32	90	s
Jo'burg	26	79	f
L Palmas	20	68	s
Le Touqet	8	46	f
Lisbon	11	52	s
Locarno	17	63	s
L Angeles	12	54	r
Luxembg	5	41	c
Luxor	24	75	s
Madrid	14	57	s
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	20	68	s
Malta	14	57	f
Melbourne	35	95	s
Mexico C	X		
Miami	27	81	s
Milan	17	63	s
Montreal	-7	19	s
Moscow	1	34	c
Munich	2	36	c
Nairobi	29	84	s
Naples	12	54	s
N Delhi	16	61	s
N York	5	41	s
Nice	14	57	s
Oslo	2	36	s
Paris	8	46	c
Perth	31	88	s
Prague	2	36	f
Reykjavik	-4	25	s
Rhodes	12	54	c
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	31	88	f
Rome	12	54	c
Salzburg	4	39	r
S Frisco	10	50	s
Santiago	28	82	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	3	37	s
Singapore	29	84	f
Stockholm	-3	27	sn
Strasbrg	8	46	c
Sydney	24	75	f
Tangier	16	61	s
Tel Aviv	18	64	c
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	7	45	s
Toronto	-3	27	s
Tunis	15	59	f
Valencia	19	66	s
Vanc'ver	X		
Venice	7	45	s
Vienna	5	41	r
Warsaw	0	32	sn
Wash'ton	8	46	s
Wellngton	23	73	X
Zurich	5	41	r

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low A will deepen and move southeast; high B will maintain its central pressure and drift south; low C will fill and move west



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6:24	3.5	18:43	3.6
Avonmouth	11:39	10.5	-	-
Belfast	4:03	2.8	16:28	3.1
Cardiff	11:25	9.8	23:48	9.3
Devonport	10:14	4.7	22:51	4.4
Dover	3:39	6.8	16:05	5.4
Dublin	4:37	3.4	17:16	3.5
Falmouth	9:45	4.5	22:22	4.2
Greenock	5:16	2.9	17:11	3.1
Harwich	4:14	3.4	16:43	3.2
Holyhead	3:05	4.6	15:24	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	11:05	7.3	23:24	7.4
Ilfracombe	10:36	7.3	23:04	7.0
King's Lynn	11:28	6.0	23:30	6.1
Leith	7:42	4.6	20:06	4.8
Liverpool	3:50	7.7	16:11	7.6
London Bridge	6:32	6.2	19:03	6.1
Lowestoft	2:03	2.3	14:54	2.1
Margate	4:36	4.2	17:09	4.0
Milford Haven	11:00	5.6	23:28	5.2
Newquay	9:59	5.6	22:27	5.3
Oban	10:15	3.1	23:03	3.0
Penzance	9:24	4.5	21:57	4.3
Portland	11:14	1.4	23:42	1.3
Portsmouth	4:16	4.0	16:29	3.8
Shoreham	3:50	5.2	15:54	5.0
Southampton	3:43	3.8	16:02	3.7
Swansea	11:05	10.4	23:38	10.1
Tees	8:50	9.0	21:10	9.0
Walton-On-Naze	4:16	3.7	16:45	3.5

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kirling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Monday, February 8, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.





MONDAY FEBRUARY 8 1999

INDIAN SPINNER MATCHES LAKER IN TAKING ALL TEN WICKETS

SAURABH DAS



One out, all out: Kumble appeals successfully for the wicket of Wasim, caught at short leg to give the India leg spinner his tenth victim of the Pakistan innings in Delhi yesterday

A PERFECT TEN

101-1	Afridi nudges wide ball to wicketkeeper
101-2	Next ball, Ijaz leg-before to full-length delivery
115-3	Inzamam inside edge onto stumps
115-4	Youhana leg-before with bat behind pad
127-5	Moin caught low at slip
128-6	Saeed Anwar pushes firmly to short leg
186-7	Salim Malik bowled by top-spinner
198-8	Mushtaq caught at slip as ball turns sharply
198-9	Saqlain hit on toe first ball to be leg-before
207-10	Wasim Akram caught at short leg via his pad

TEST BESTS

MOST WICKETS BY BOWLERS IN AN INNINGS

10-53	**J C Laker**	England v Australia	Old Trafford	1956
10-74	**A R Kumble**	India v Pakistan	Delhi	1999
9-28	**G A Lohmann**	England v South Africa	Johannesburg	1895-96
9-37	**J C Laker**	England v Australia	Old Trafford	1956
9-52	**R J Hadlee**	New Zealand v Australia	Brisbane	1985-86
9-56	**Abdul Qadir**	Pakistan v England	Lahore	1987-88
9-57	**D E Malcolm**	England v South Africa	The Oval	1994
9-65	**M Muralitharan**	Sri Lanka v England	The Oval	1998
9-69	**J M Patel**	India v Australia	Kanpur	1959-60
9-83	**Kapil Dev**	India v West Indies	Ahmedabad	1983-84
9-86	**Sarfraz Nawaz**	Pakistan v Australia	Melbourne	1978-79
9-95	**J M Noriega**	West Indies v India	Port-of-Spain	1970-71
9-102	**S P Gupte**	India v West Indies	Kanpur	1958-59
9-103	**S F Barnes**	England v South Africa	Johannesburg	1913-14
9-113	**H J Tayfield**	South Africa v England	Johannesburg	1956-57
9-121	**A A Mailey**	Australia v England	Melbourne	1920-21

Richard Hobson in Delhi sees an unassuming bowler make an indelible mark in Test history

When the final wicket came his way, Anil Kumble clasped his hands, beamed like the sun and looked to the sky. He uprooted a stump as a souvenir simply of victory against Pakistan. Then, as Sachin Tendulkar led a procession of colleagues moving to offer congratulations, it dawned that he had taken his place in history.

If Kumble needed a few seconds for the scale of his achievement to sink in after becoming the second man in 122 years of Test cricket to take all ten wickets in an innings, then he will not be allowed to forget it. The manner in which he was mobbed by autograph collectors and wellwishers as he left the Ferozeshah Kotla Stadium provided a taste of what is to come.

His figures of ten for 74 from 26.3 overs eased India to success by 212 runs in the second Test to level what was already a compelling series, in which the sheer excitement of the cricket has transcended past bitter rivalry between the neighbouring countries. For his contribution to that alone, Kumble's performance must rank alongside that of Jim Laker, whose feat in taking ten Australia wickets for 53 at Old Trafford in 1956 is one of the best-known of all the game's records.

Before his death in 1986, Laker related how the capacity at Manchester must have been nearer to 100,000 than the official figure of around 20,000 to accommodate all those who said that they witnessed his great day. Some 30,000 can honestly claim to have seen Kumble join the pantheon of spin bowlers.

With the eighth and ninth victims falling to the final balls of Kumble's 26th over, he was sent to field at third man while Javagal Srinath sent down six balls, any one of which — had the seam bowler been so minded — would have ruined his chance of going through the scorecard. Unbeknown to Kumble, Mohammad Azharuddin, the captain, had ordered Srinath to bowl wide to allow the leg spinner the chance of a tenth wicket.

"By that stage, they were so far behind that we were going to win and there are not many situations where a bowler has the chance to take all ten," Azharuddin said. Srinath, in fact, followed his instructions too well. The bowler, a paradigm of accuracy, suddenly delivered a brace of wides. Even more bizarre, the partisan crowd began to cheer every ball that Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis blocked against Srinath instead of baying for victory. They wanted Kumble to finish the job that he had begun around two hours and 40 minutes earlier.

Although Wasim survived the hat-trick ball, he edged the third via his pad to Laxman at short leg to herald a colourful display of flag-waving and delirious dancing in the stands.

"After I had taken the sixth wicket, I thought I might have a chance of all ten," Kumble said. "I was not particularly nervous because I knew it was a matter of destiny. If I was destined to get ten wickets, then that is what would happen. My first reaction was how good to beat Pakistan. In that moment, I had forgotten it was my tenth wicket.

"I think a little superstition helped because, after lunch, when we needed to break the opening partnership, I gave my cap and sweater to Sachin to give to the umpire. Shahid Afridi got out in that over and whenever we felt we really needed a wicket afterwards, I would let Sachin take my cap and sweater again. It always worked."

There is a humility about Kumble, 28, who hails from Bangalore. In descending order he dedicated his achievement to God, his family and his team-mates. He enjoyed success with Northamptonshire, when he took 105 wickets in the 1995 season, and in 51 Tests since his debut in 1992 he has taken 234 wickets, making him the fourth most successful India bowler of all time.

Although he does not spin his standard leg-break as much as Shane Warne or Mushtaq Ahmed, among contemporaries, his height and high action make the top-spinner a deadly weapon. This helps to explain why, on a pitch that offered slow turn but variable bounce, he caused far more problems than Harbhajan Singh, the off spinner, who bowled in tandem for much of the innings.

Kumble suggested that the performance of young Sandagopan Ramesh in scoring 60 and 96 in difficult circumstances made him a more deserving recipient of the man-of-the-match award. To all else, including Cammie Smith, the adjudicator, Kumble had no rivals. The new star of India is among the guests at a reception hosted by the Home Minister in the capital tonight and will try to remain unfazed by the potential rewards of success. Azharuddin, who knows him better than most, said: "He has tried so hard with his bowling that he deserves this. He has worked out his limitations and now just bowls to his strengths."

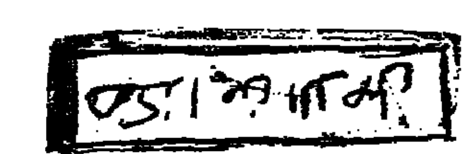
At a chaotic press conference, Kumble had to protect his head with his hands to push his way through a jostling crowd of admiring Indian journalists. He was asked whether the next ambition is to take 20 wickets in a match. "I know that expectations will be higher from now on," he said, "but I would rather take ten wickets and have to live with that pressure than not at all." Even Laker only managed 19.

SAURABH DAS



Uplifting: Srinath, left, and Prasad chair Kumble from the field after his record-equalling performance

Match report, page 26
John Woodcock, page 26



Exclusive club welcomes its second member



Laker, the great off spinner, who routed Australia at Old Trafford

John Woodcock recalls the day that Jim Laker set a record that stood for 43 years until yesterday

If he were still alive Jim Laker would, I am sure, be delighted that it is Anil Kumble who has become only the second man to take all ten wickets in an innings in a Test match. Although Laker turned the ball from the off, whereas Kumble's stock ball is the leg break, they both owe, or owed, their success to patience, expediency and know-how, and neither of them came into the world as one of nature's games players. Kumble, like Laker, is a big fellow, with a measured stride rather than easy style.

Laker, of course, had taken nine wickets in Australia's first innings, as well as the ten he took in the second, in his great Test match at Old Trafford in 1956. In doing so, he made sure England won the Ashes for the third time in a row. Not entirely without justification, Australia thought they were being set up in England that year. I can see now the clouds of dust when the ground staff attended to the pitch even at lunchtime on the first day of the match, though it was, in fact, after it had rained on the fifth and last day that Laker ran through Australia's second innings.

The forward prop in its present heinous form, with the bat hidden behind the pad, had yet to be invented, and the incomparably cavalier Keith Miller was as defenceless against Laker's sharply turning off breaks as the famously obdurate Ken Mackay. Fielding at short leg to Laker in that match must have been the experience of a lifetime. Those who had the joy and privilege of doing so were Tony Lock, who stood behind square, Alan Oakman, who held five catches, and the retired Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Rev the Lord Sheppard.

The regulations are such today that the days are gone when Australia, or anyone else for that matter, can be caught on a sticky dog. Laker and Kumble took their chance when the chance was there. Having done so, Laker walked off the field, his sweater slung over his shoulder, showing far less emotion than an English off spinner does today when he gets a single Australian wicket, let alone 19 in a match. The A5 was the road back to London from Manchester in those days, and a pint and a quick bite at Weedon, unrecognised by most of the locals, was Jim's lot that night.

But he had assumed a place in cricket history unique until Kumble's superlative feat in Delhi yesterday. It would be hard to imagine anything more perfect than that India and Pakistan should have shared their potentially fraught and unplayable two-match series in the way they did — after some wonderfully exciting and fluctuating cricket. As one who does not entirely subscribe to the theory that if the Russians and the Germans had played cricket it would have changed the course of history, I like to think that this short series may, indeed, have done good.

The bowlers who win the modern Test matches that matter most — and to a great part of the world's population this one in Delhi, between Hindu and Muslim, must have seemed to matter an awful lot — are the very best leg spinners and the very best fast bowlers. That is bad news for England, who have never had a great Test-winning leg spinner and in the English climate are never likely to. For India, they constitute a lifeline. Kumble may not be quite as subtle and alluring an exponent of the leg-spinning art as S. P. Gupte was, nor perhaps, as widely devastating at Bhagwat Chandrasekhar; but he has become a legend overnight, and that can only be for the good of the game.

For having been so obsessed with speed and bouncers under Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards, West Indies are paying the price now that they can find no one to replace Roberts, Holding, Marshall and the rest of them; besides which, batsmen are not as intimidated in the way that they were by "pace like fire". Except, perhaps, in South Africa, this has been the winter of the spinner — of MacGill and Saqlain and Warne and now of Kumble.

Tall and with long arms, Kumble makes up for not being a great spinner of the ball by making his top spinners and googlies bounce, and in Delhi he would have benefited, I would expect, from the odd ball keeping low. I once wrote about England winning a Test match on a Christmas Day in Delhi. The boot was on the other foot, but that, too, was an occasion for rejoicing in every way. It is better that a spinner should have a golden day than a thousand bludgeoning "quicks". When Laker became sanctified he was 34, and was to play only a few more times for England. At 28, Kumble should still have half a career ahead of him.

CRICKET

Ten out of ten for Kumble the destroyer

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN DELHI

DELHI (fourth day of five): India beat Pakistan by 212 runs

IN THE manic excitement of Anil Kumble joining Jim Laker in history the sheer importance of victory for India here yesterday became too easy to overlook. By securing the win that eluded them dramatically in Madras seven days earlier, they not only levelled an absorbing series 1-1, and preserved an unbeaten home run stretching 12 years, but spared themselves from a level of criticism unimaginable in any other Test-playing nation.

The sense of joy and triumph pervading from all quarters of the Ferozeshah Kotla Stadium, except the Pakistan dressing-room, reflected the delight of a first victory in a Test against their fiercest rivals since January 1980, 23 matches ago. While most of the encounters in the intervening period were tepid, turgid draws, the conclusion to this encounter represented a fine, fitting end to a remarkable fortnight.

The hard work for India had been done by the batsmen on Saturday, by Ramesh, Ganguly and Srinath, in particular, to establish a lead beyond 400. Only twice before has a side passed such a total to win, and the conditions in Delhi gave too much assistance to the slow bowlers for Pakistan to stand any realistic chance. Even when Shahid Afridi and Saeed Anwar were adding 101 for the first wicket in such attractive, carefree fashion, the sheer magnitude of a target of 420 seemed beyond them.

Inevitably, now, the first game of the Asian Test Championship, a triangular competition which also involves Sri Lanka, will be seen as the decider to this series. India and Pakistan meet in Calcutta on Feburary 16, where crowds of around 70,000 daily will expect a repeat of the recent stimulating encounters. Nothing, surely, will match the achievement of Kumble in becoming the second man in Test cricket to take ten wickets in an innings, but with Wasim Akram and Mohammad Azharuddin continuing to pledge themselves to attack, then entertainment of some sort can be guaranteed.

The spin of Kumble and Saqlain Mushtaq, who took 21 and 20 wickets respectively in the series, will continue to be crucial. Saqlain returned his fourth successive haul of five wickets yesterday with his unique variation of off spin. For his consistency, he was named man of the series ahead of the leg spinner.

Yet Kumble will become synonymous with the return to Test rivalry of these countries, after ten years when terrorist activity and Government intransigence decreed little future for lengthy tours embracing five-day games.

His figures of 26.3-9-74-10 will be etched into the memory of Indian children, just as English boys, at least of previous generations, have been able to recite Laker's return of ten for 53, 19 for 90 overall, at Old Trafford in 1956.

How different it might have been had Azharuddin not suggested that Kumble change ends after a first, inauspicious spell of five overs that cost 25 runs. Saeed was playing fluently and Afridi remained true to his instinct to hit hard and often. Once restricted, however, Afridi is prone to lose patience, as demonstrated by an unnecessary nudge outside off stump to a wide ball by Kumble on 41.

The dominoes tumbled. Ijaz was a clear leg-before victim to the next ball and, four overs later, the leaden-footed Inzamam and nervous Youhana fell within the space of three balls. From 101 for nought, Pakistan had collapsed to 115 for four and the resolve that saw them overturn a position of apparently inevitable defeat in Madras now deserted them with the clatter of wickets.

A low catch by Ganguly at slip accounted for Moin before the departure of Saeed to an ineffectual lunge that found the hands of Laxman at short leg. Kumble's figures at tea were six for 58 from 21 overs; meanwhile, Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath had suffered as edges either fell short of fielders or balls narrowly failed to take the edge. When play resumed after tea Kumble's figures moved from being match-winning, to very good, to outstanding, to momentous in the space of 33 balls. Immune from nerves, he picked off the last four batsmen for 16 more runs, his impending place in the record books rousing the crowd to new, boisterous heights.

Salim Malik, batting with a runner because of a groin injury, misjudged a top-spinner. Then, to successive balls, Mushtaq Ahmed offered a simple catch to Dravid and Saqlain was leg-before. When Wasim played Kumble to Laxman via bat and pad the celebrations could begin.

SAURABH DAS

Salim, the seventh of Kumble's victims, is bowled after playing across the line during his team's crushing defeat in Delhi yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM DELHI

INDIA: First Innings 252 (M Azharuddin 67, S Ramesh 60, Saqlain Mushtaq 5 for 94)

Second Innings

S Ramesh c and b Mushtaq Ahmed	96
V V S Laxman b Wasim	8
R Dravid c Ijaz b Saqlain	29
S R Tendulkar c Wasim b Mushtaq Ahmed	29
*M Azharuddin b Wasim	14
S C Ganguly not out	62
† N R Mongia lbw b Wasim	0
A Kumble c Ijaz b Saqlain	15
J Srinath c Ijaz b Saqlain	49
B K V Prasad b Saqlain	6
H Singh b Saqlain	0
Extras (b 13, lb 9, nb 9)	31
Total	339

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-100, 3-168, 4-183, 5-199, 6-199, 7-231, 8-331, 9-339

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 21-3-43-3, Waqar Younis 12-2-42-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 46.4-13-122-5, Mushtaq Ahmed 26-4-86-2, Shahid Afridi 8-1-24-0

PAKISTAN: First Innings 172 (A Kumble 4 for 75).

Second Innings

Saeed Anwar c Laxman b Kumble	69
Shahid Afridi c Mongia b Kumble	41
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Kumble	0
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Kumble	6
Yousuf Youhana lbw b Kumble	0
† Moin Khan c Ganguly b Kumble	3
Salim Malik b Kumble	15
*Wasim Akram c Laxman b Kumble	37
Mushtaq Ahmed c Dravid b Kumble	1
Saqlain Mushtaq lbw b Kumble	0
Waqar Younis not out	6
Extras (b 15, lb 2, w 2, nb 10)	29
Total	207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-101, 2-101, 3-115, 4-115, 5-127, 6-128, 7-186, 8-198, 9-198

BOWLING: Srinath 12-2-50-0, Prasad 4-1-15-0, Kumble 26.3-9-74-10, Singh 18-5-51-0

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and A V Jayaprakash

Australia certain to go for Waugh

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

AS ENGLAND and Australia prepare to lock horns in the best-of-three final of the triangular tournament, Australia must address a serious matter. They have a captain to find, to succeed Mark Taylor, who handed in his badge last week, and his identity will be clear by the end of the week.

They don't have to look far to find suitable men. Steve Waugh is the starred candidate, on grounds of experience and proven ability. Shane Warne is his rival, and Steve's twin, Mark, was picked out by Taylor in his resignation address as somebody who could do the job, if required.

It would be a major surprise if his brother did not get the nod. Waugh, 33, is the senior member of the side, having been introduced to Test cricket 13 years ago when Australia were not the force they are now. Alone among the current side he knows what it is like to lose to England.

The Australian Cricket Board is meeting on Friday, though it may announce its decision before then. Waugh is thought to have ten of the 14 votes.

England will be without Mark Alleyne for the three-match final after the death of his father, Euclid, in a car accident in Barbados. Alleyne, who learnt the news in a telephone call from his brother, will arrive at Heathrow tomorrow and leave for Barbados the day after.

David Graveney, the England manager, said: "It is tragic for Mark and his family; cricket is a minor event compared to this, but it will act as an inspiration to the players to do well for him."

Adam Gilchrist, the opening batsman, made the highest score by an Australian in a one-day international in the final group match of the tournament yesterday. Gilchrist made 154 off 129 balls at Melbourne as Australia amassed 310 for eight from their 50 overs and then bowled out Sri Lanka for 267.

AUSTRALIA

† A C Gilchrist c Tillekeratne b Vaas	154
M E Waugh b Muralitharan	19
B P Julian c Jayawardene b Muralitharan	0
R T Ponting c Jayawardene b De Silva	61
D S Lehmann c Ranatunga b Samaraweera	27
D R Martyn c Kaluwitharana b Wickremasinghe	18
M G Bevan not out	11
S Lee run out	5
*S K Warne c Tillekeratne b Vaas	3
M S Kasprowicz not out	2
Extras (b 4, w 4, nb 2)	10
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	310

G D McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-92, 2-92, 3-213, 4-253, 5-286, 6-291, 7-301, 8-307

BOWLING: Vaas 10-1-68-2; Wickremasinghe 9-0-52-1; Muralitharan 3.4-1-15-2; De Silva 10-0-55-1, Tillekeratne 1.2-0-11-0, Samaraweera 9-0-60-1, Jayawardene 7-0-45-0.

SRI LANKA

A Gunawardene b Lee	75
† R S Kaluwitharana c Martyn b Warne	68
P A de Silva c Waugh b Lee	11
D P M D Jayawardene run out	27
*A Ranatunga c Gilchrist b Lee	1
H P Tillekeratne c Ponting b Lee	42
M S Atapattu b Lehmann	12
W P U C J Vaas b McGrath	14
T T Samaraweera b Lee	3
G P Wickremasinghe c Gilchrist b McGrath	4
M Muralitharan not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 1, nb 4)	9
Total (47.1 overs)	267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-145, 2-147, 3-164, 4-166, 5-200, 6-225, 7-248, 8-255, 9-265

BOWLING: McGrath 8-0-46-2; Kasprowicz 8-0-45-0; Warne 8-1-51-1; Julian 5-0-45-0; Lee 8.1-0-33-5, Bevan 3-0-15-0; Lehmann 7-0-28-1.

Umpires: D J Harper and T A Prue.

Final table

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	10	7	3	14
England	10	5	5	10
Sri Lanka	10	3	7	6

FINAL DATES (Australia v England): **Wednesday:** First match (Sydney). **Friday:** Second match (Melbourne). **Sunday:** Third match (if needed, Melbourne)

HOCKEY

Robinson inspires Reading revenge

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

A HAT-TRICK by Ken Robinson, the New Zealander, helped Reading to a 5-2 victory over Southgate in the National League premier division match at Trent Park yesterday. In their previous meeting on October 4, when Reading were the hosts, Southgate won 4-2.

Southgate's task might have seemed less forbidding if Rott, their centre forward, had converted a penalty stroke when the score was 3-0.

They will have consoled themselves, however, with victory in the men's indoor club championship at Crystal Palace on Friday, where they beat Old Loughtonians 3-2 on penalty strokes after the full-time score had been 5-5.

A goal by Evennett from a short corner in the 44th minute gave Canterbury a 4-3 away win over East Grinstead, for whom Collins scored twice from short corners with Cleife adding to the score. Wicken scored two of the Canterbury goals. Nick Thompson's two goals from short corners were not enough for Old Loughtonians, who lost 6-2 away to Cannock. Kalbir Takher scoring twice. Further goals were added by Sharpe, Mayer, Crutchley and Paul Edwards.

Tina Cullen, the England and Great Britain forward, inspired Hightown to a crushing 7-0 win over Sherwood in a fourth-round EHA Cup-tie with a hat-trick, giving the Merseysiders a weekend double after the 2-1 victory over Slough, the premier division champions, on Saturday.

Ipswich seized their chance to move six points clear of Slough at the top of the table when they cruised to a 4-1 win against Sutton Coldfield. As the teams compete for the four play-off places, Hightown held on to fourth spot ahead of Olton, who were relieved to learn that Kerry Moore, their England midfield player, suffered nothing worse than a neck spasm after being stretchered off at Leicester.

SQUASH

Jackman reclaims national title

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

CASSANDRA JACKMAN, the England No 1, who had been out of the game recovering from ankle injuries for the past three months, yesterday reclaimed the Business Pages National Squash Championship at the Manchester Velodrome with a 9-5, 3-9, 6-9, 9-0, 9-6 win over Sue Wright, the defending champion, in 75 minutes.

"I cannot think of a time in my life when I wanted to play a tournament more," Jackman said. She withdrew from the first round of the Philadelphia Open early in October, when she went over on her left ankle, and played only a small tournament in Chicago late last month in preparation for this championship.

A former world junior champion, Jackman has been unable to break the Australian domination of the women's international game over the past six years, but has vied with Wright for top domestic billing and the third and fourth spots on the world list.

Yesterday, coached by David Campion, her fiancé, she began with some authority, taking the 20-minute opening game with some confident volleying in the front court. "I lost my way a bit in the second and third games, but David sent me back for the fourth to concentrate on playing my own game," Jackman said.

She won the fourth game in just six minutes and three hands, and was 6-1 up in the fifth before a series of harsh penalty calls against her from the referee brought Wright back into the match at 6-6. Jackman's return to calm rallying brought two unforced tinned errors and a clumsy penalty infringement from Wright in the closing rallies of the match.

Later last night, Simon Parke, the defending men's champion from Yorkshire, was due to meet Paul Johnson, of Kent, the England No 1, in the men's final.

Results, page 40





Howard Wilkinson, pictured at Nottingham Forest's game against Manchester United at the City Ground on Saturday, accepts another goodwill message from a supporter

Wilkinson takes pride in first day at office

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, finds England's caretaker relishing the challenge of facing France

Howard Wilkinson began the task of sweeping away the legacy of stagnation, suspicion and cynicism bequeathed by Glenn Hoddle to his players last night when he gathered the England squad together at their Berkshire hotel to tell them to forget about the past and concentrate on the task of facing France, the world champions, at Wembley on Wednesday night.

The players, who arrived at Burnham Beeches at 5pm, were chosen by Hoddle, the last act of the discredited coach, but Wilkinson, a caretaker manager, relished his first chance to make his own mark when he held a squad meeting an hour later and encouraged the players to talk about any grievances or misgivings that they may have been harbouring.

Under Hoddle, many of the players had felt unable to express their feelings openly, especially after the publication of his World Cup diary with its wholesale betrayal of confidences, and the most recent team gatherings under his guidance had been characterised by an awkward silence. Last night, though, the mood at the meeting was relaxed.

As Wilkinson — who many now expect to be in charge not just for the game against France but also for the European championship qualifying ties against Poland, next month, as well as Sweden and Bulgaria at the beginning of June — prepared for his first day in charge of training today, he attempted to change that.

"I had a team meeting with the players at the hotel," Wilkinson, 55, said, "and I told them the most important thing for England and them is that the game against France is an effective preparation for the Poland game.

"I felt proud to be standing there among such a gifted collection of players. It is difficult when you see them either from the dugout or pass them in the corridor."

Wilkinson did have to contend with one of the problems that dogged Hoddle throughout his 2½ years in the job — a lengthy injury list. Paul Merson did not join up with the squad because of a back problem and has been replaced by Jason Wilcox, the Blackburn Rovers midfield player, who also has a heel injury.

Neither Gareth Southgate, Gary Neville, Sol Campbell, Dion Dublin, Graeme Le Saux nor Darren Anderton are expected to train this morning at Bisham Abbey and there is already talk of a defensive crisis.

"What a welcome to international football," Wilkinson said. "I will be thinking long and hard over the difficult decisions I am going to have to make over the next 24 hours. It is an injury situation that England have faced before.

"Apart from one player, Campbell, who is bedridden, everyone has turned up and no manager has asked me to leave anyone out. I am grateful for that."

Still, there was a feeling of relief among many of the players arriving at the team hotel last night that they could at last put the complicated, divisive and increasingly bizarre reign of Hoddle behind them. Influential groups of players within the squad had been alienated by the former England coach, but they are all keen to make the most of their chance for a fresh start.

Above all, there is a new mood of openness, the beginnings of an attempt to break down the hostility that has existed for much of Hoddle's tenure between the press and the players and management. As part of this openness, players will now be allowed to talk to the media on the day before an international, something vetoed by Hoddle.

Earlier in the day, Wilkinson had ensured there would be at least one aspect of continuity remaining from Hoddle's troubled reign when it was confirmed that Alan Shearer would retain the captain's armband. Most observers had assumed that Tony Adams would regain the captaincy but Wilkinson, quite rightly, has decided to keep faith with the Newcastle United centre forward.

If Wilkinson's future was more secure, if he knew that he was to be in charge until the summer or beyond, then perhaps it would have made sense for him to go with his own man. But, especially if his tenure is short-lived, if he really is to be just a caretaker, there seems little point in upsetting Shearer needlessly. "There has to be a willingness to take responsibility by the captain," Wilkinson said. "He needs to put the team before himself, to recognise the big picture. A complete captain does all of that, doesn't shirk, doesn't hide, shares the load and sacrifices himself for the team. Players who have those assets are very hard to find."

Gradually, and largely because possession is still nine tenths of any law, Wilkinson seems to be emerging as the favourite to succeed Hoddle on a permanent basis. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, joined Kevin Keegan, Arsène Wenger and Bryan Robson yesterday on the list of those who appear to have ruled themselves out of the running and Terry Venables, who is interested, said that he had had no contact from the Football Association.

"It's FA business," Venables said. "If you're asking me if they have been in touch, I have to say no. This time, it seems the shutters have gone up. Howard is an FA employee, so they obviously like him and will want him to be successful. It seems reasonable for them to want him to stay in control."

Football, pages 28-31

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hall survives fright to win place in final

BADMINTON: Darren Hall moved closer to increasing his titles to a record ten by surviving an unexpected battle with Richard Doling, who was unseeded, before reaching the final of the Liverpool Victoria English National championships in Haywards Heath yesterday. Hall, seeded No 1, won 15-11, 9-15, 15-10, but there were worrying moments, especially when he was 9-10 down in the final game and it seemed the 33-year old champion might not go through (Richard Eaton writes).

The win earned Hall his thirteenth appearance in the final and a repeat of his match against Colin Haughton last year. Haughton secured his place in the final with a 15-17, 15-5, 15-5 win over Peter Knowles. Knowles had been hoping to regain the title in his first tournament after his two-month suspension for disciplinary offences at the Dutch Open. Haughton served a shorter suspension for his part in the same incident.

Air crash mars race

SAILING: The start of leg three of the Around Alone Race from Auckland to Punte del Este was marred by the death of two spectators whose light aircraft plunged into the sea close to Brad van Liew, the Class 2 United States skipper, in *Balance Bar*, five hours into the race (Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent, writes). The 11 skippers still in the race were beating down the Colville Channel when race headquarters was notified that an aircraft had crashed close to Van Liew, himself an experienced pilot. He immediately sailed to the point of impact, but found no trace of survivors. It is believed that the aircraft had been circling the fleet and been spotted by a number of skippers, including Giovanni Soldini, in the Open 60, *FILA*.

Hingis returns to No 1

TENNIS: Martina Hingis will go back to the top of the women's world rankings today after following up her Australian Open victory by beating Amanda Coetzer to win the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. Hingis ensured her return to the No 1 position when she overcame Jana Novotna in the semi-final, easing 4-0 ahead in the first set at a cost of only four points. Coetzer managed to break back in the fifth and pushed to 2-4, but that was the extent of her resistance. Hingis stormed 5-0 ahead in the second set before calmly serving out for the match against a struggling Coetzer.

Jackson left furious

ATHLETICS: Colin Jackson criticised organisers after coming close to losing his 60 metres hurdles world indoor record in the Sparkassen Cup in Stuttgart yesterday because of the lack of electric false-starting equipment. Falk Balzer made the most blatant of false starts before running a German record of 7.34sec — the second-fastest time in history after Jackson's 7.30sec in 1994. "I expected to hear the recall gun, but it never came," Jackson said. "I was robbed. After my heat, I honestly believed I could have got close to my world record."

Ovett strides to victory

BOWLS: Ollie Ovett, nephew of Steve, the former Olympic runner, was first past the post in the Manchester Unity All-England Under-25 championship at Nottingham. Ovett, who plays for the Brighton-based Preston club, reached the final with wins over Craig Cooper, Chris Young and Mike Bowley. In the final, he was on course for a comfortable win when he led Glenn Allen, from Isis, 16-8, but Allen squared the match at 16-16 before Ovett won with two singles and a treble.

Spacey sparks Arsenal

FOOTBALL: Arsenal, the holders, advanced to the sixth round of the women's AXA FA Cup after defeating Everton 1-0 at Boreham Wood yesterday. Marieanne Spacey scored the winning goal in the 75th minute. Croydon, the winners in 1996 and runners-up last year, were indebted to Carly Hunt, who scored a fine winning goal in the 85th minute against Millwall Lionesses, her former club.

London win at Wycliffe

ROWING: London University won all three open classes at the Wycliffe Head on the Gloucester Sharpness Canal on Saturday, and Shrewsbury School took the lion's share of the junior divisions. Oxford University's lightweight women were impressive women's eight winners and Wycliffe's top boys' and girls' quads both won their divisions.

BASKETBALL

Finch fury as Sharks bite back

By Nicholas Harling

THE hard-earned victory that took Sheffield Sharks back to the top of the Budweiser League yesterday did little to placate Chris Finch, their coach, who still came off court at the Sheffield Arena raging at Roger Harrison and Mac Callender, the officials, after the Sharks had overcome Leicester Riders 80-71.

Surprisingly, it was not so much the technical offence that he incurred in the first half that concerned Finch, but a late, academic call when the result was secure. Harrison, who took the brunt of Finch's fury, had earlier penalised him for swearing, apparently because it was in front of the table officials. "Why that should be an issue, I don't know," Finch said.

The four subsequent free throws from Jaron Boone, another from Eric Moore and a Garnet Gayle three-pointer enabled the Riders to complete an 18-3 burst that shook abruptly the Sharks out of their complacency. His tally of 28 points enabled the Sharks to go in level at 43-43 at half-time.

Mark Hawley then scored five swift points before a trio of three-pointers, from Ian McKinney, and one apiece from Michael Payne and the excellent Todd Cauthorn formed the bulk of Sheffield's decisive 19-5 rally.

Watched by Finch, Manchester Giants had kept the title issue alive by defeating the Leopards 80-78 the previous evening.

SNOOKER

In-form Williams begins title defence in fine style

By Phil Yates

MARK WILLIAMS has amassed £148,000 in prize-money during the past three months and won consecutive world-ranking tournaments, the Irish Open and Welsh Open. The confidence fostered by such a sequence of success shone through at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Williams expended a minimum of nervous energy in beating Nigel Bond 6-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson & Hedges Masters and it was difficult to imagine a more impressive start to the defence of his title.

After winning a scrappy opening frame, Williams compiled breaks of 123, 61 and 67 to lead 3-0. The Welshman subsequently added a low-scoring fifth frame before potting blue and pink in the sixth to complete the rout.

"I know that this run is going to come to an end sometime, but I'm just determined to enjoy myself while it lasts," Williams, now unbeaten in 16 successive matches, said.

Stephen Lee, the Grand Prix champion, and Alan McManus, winner of the Masters in 1994, meet this morning for the right to provide the next opposition for Williams, who edged Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a respotted black in the final last year.



Williams: long winning run

James Wattana continued to heal psychological wounds inflicted at the Asian Games in December by performing fluently in his 6-2 victory over David Gray, a Wembley debutant, in the first round.

Wattana reached the nadir of his career so far when he lost to Chan Kwok-ming, of Hong Kong, in the first round of the Games in his native Bangkok, when he was expected to win a gold medal for Thailand.

"After that, I wanted to take a year off, maybe two, but I knew it was impossible," Wattana said. "This game is my life and my living."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes run Rams ragged

Widnes Vikings	30
Dewsbury Rams	12

By Peter Wilson

DEWSBURY RAMS, the 4-1 second favourites for the first Ford Northern Premiership title, were left to wonder whether the bookmakers had done their homework after this defeat by an enthusiastic Widnes Vikings outfit.

Solid defence restricted a disappointing Dewsbury attack and excellent handling by Fabien Devecchi, Widnes's French international half back, and Paul Mansson, his partner, caused havoc.

Widnes, with experienced newcomers, looked a far more ambitious side than the one who struggled a year ago. Much of the damage was done during an impressive first half, when they established an 18-2 lead. The first try came from Lokeni Savelio, the second-row forward, after a pass from the impressive Mansson before the same player put in Devecchi. Further tries from James Briers and Mansson completed the scoring for Widnes, with Dewsbury replying through Alex Godfrey and Billy Kershaw.

SCORERS: Widnes: Tries: Savelio, Devecchi, Briers, Mansson. Goals: Salisbury (7). Dewsbury: Tries: Godfrey, Kershaw. Goals: Eaton (2)

ICE HOCKEY

Storm rise again to the top

By a Correspondent

MANCHESTER Storm turned the Sekonda Superleague title race back in their favour with a hard-fought 3-1 win over Cardiff, who had taken over at the top just 24 hours previously.

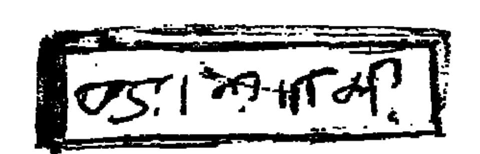
Storm regained their place at the top with third-period goals by Jeff Jablonski, his second of the night, and Stefan Ketola, to end the Devils' eight-game winning streak.

Storm took an eighth-minute lead through Jablonski, but the Cardiff pressure told when Merv Priest equalised. It was anybody's game until Jablonski struck after 46 minutes and when Cardiff withdrew Herlofsky to throw on an extra attacker, Ketola broke away to score.

The Devils had displaced Storm as leaders for the first time since October 31 when they beat Newcastle Riverkings 4-3 in overtime while Storm, playing their fourth away game on the run, slumped to their third defeat in that testing series.

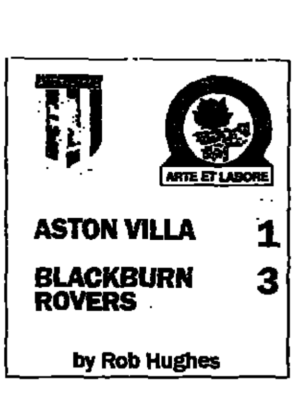
Ketola's sixth-minute power-play goal gave them an advantage that they did not lose until Paxton Schulte equalised 31 minutes later. They then went 3-1 behind to goals by Greg Burke and Mikhail Nemirovsky and although Blair Scott replied from another power play, Colin Ward's shot into an empty net settled the outcome.

Nottingham Panthers kept their remote title hopes alive with a 3-0 win over Sheffield Steelers.



FA Carling Premiership: Injury-weakened pacesetters struck down by altitude sickness

Villa unable to run on empty



ASTON VILLA 1
BLACKBURN ROVERS 3

by Rob Hughes

IN THE street outside Villa Park, a man was trying to sell a derelict VW Beetle with its headlamps ripped out. "It's a great engine," said the Brummie Arthur Daley, "all she needs is a bit of renovation." Inside the stadium, the cost of renovation was plain to see.

Blackburn Rovers, having spent £15 million in two months to rise off the bottom where they never should have been, convincingly beat Aston Villa, who failed to lure Juninho from Atlético Madrid for £12 million and £50,000 a week. And for want of such a creator, Villa's challenge for the championship is running out of engine power.

John Gregory, Villa's genuine young manager, allowed himself to say: "I'm a bit envious of Brian Kidd, who can go out and buy four players on the belt. He has the benefactor, but I'm not complaining. It comes down to how good a manager you are."

A manager is no better than his resources and Villa, deeply wounded by the stressed ego of Stan Collymore, had to field Dion Dublin, Steve Watson and Gareth Southgate with palpably painful real injuries and rely on apprentices on the bench. The effort of leading the FA Carling Premiership has clearly sapped the 17-year-old Gareth Barry and run Lee Hendrie into the ground.

Yet Villa Park, the foundation stone of league football, still throbs with potential power. The crowd on Saturday contained men who have supported the claret and blues for three score years and ten, and included five-month-old Robert Lally, whose great-great grandfather, Harry Cooch, once played and coached the Villa. The club that you choose is a club for life, a faith that may be lost on the moguls now tearing at the fabric of the higher echelons of the game.

Villa are finding the championship cannot be won by Englishmen alone, nor is it likely with a chairman who is such a modest millionaire. Doug Ellis, modest? Of course not, but his millions are, by comparison to those of Jack Walker, at Blackburn, never mind the resources that drive Manchester United and Arsenal or sustain the astonishing wages-gamble at Chelsea.

Villa have had to run too hard to make the pace at the top, and are paying for it. It is cruel indeed when your skipper, after an immaculate half-hour of commanding the side from the back, scores an own goal. Southgate, who has virtually surrendered his England place to push his injured hip for Villa, went for an innocuous cross from David Dunn and headed the ball in a gentle, almost mocking arc, over Michael Oakes, his stranded goalkeeper. It was the first own goal of his career.

Someone else who ought to figure for England, Chris Sutton, then harassed Villa into certain defeat. Back after injury and suspension, he was masterful in holding the ball, turning the defence, in heading and running power. He wrestled possession away from Riccardo Scimeca and, with careful aim, presented Ashley Ward with the second Rovers' goal. When Scimeca was beaten again, outpaced and outfoxed by the tricky Matt Jansen, the move led to a third goal, volleyed in by Dunn. All three strikes were laced with Villa error.

At the other end, Filan was at full stretch to deny Joachim, Dublin and Alan Thompson, a substitute, though Joachim eventually scored a splendid consolation goal and Grayson missed from six yards, but this was evidence more of Villa's stout heart than any championship pretension.

Blackburn are too good to be where they are, and Kidd's start in management suggests a very appreciable talent for the job. He will go to the board this week determined to prevent Tim Flowers, his England goalkeeper, being granted a transfer, because Kidd has the money, the backing and the good sense to know that he needs to hold onto his two good goalkeepers.

"I'm building long term," he said, "and for that you need competition for all places." That, of course, costs.

Now that Villa's impetus has stalled, the blame is being heaped on Ellis, whose caution is deemed to be holding back Gregory's need for recuits. But should the chairman risk bankrupting Villa — and make no mistake, the rising transfer fees and wages will claim casualties — attempting to win a championship that will, in any case, be Manchester United's, Arsenal's or Chelsea's?

This time, Deadly Doug may be right to restrain his young manager. And who knows, Stanley may give a hand. "Collymore? Please, don't ask me to waste my time talking about somebody who isn't here," Gregory said. "Ask *him . . . if you can find him.*" The car without headlamps, indeed.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Oakes — R Scimeca, G Southgate, G Barry (sub: A Thompson, 78min) — S Watson, S Grayson, I Taylor, A Wright — P Merson — D Dublin, J Joachim.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-1-2): J Filan — J McAteer, D Peacock, M Broomes, C Davidson — D Dunn, W McKinlay, J Wilcox — M Jansen (sub: D Duff, 81) — C Sutton, A Ward
Referee: K Burge



Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, cuts a dejected figure as Ward, with arm upraised, celebrates his successful strike. Photograph: David Jones

Anderton shows off his new self-belief



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
COVENTRY CITY 0

by Russell Kempson

GLENN HODDLE'S halo may have slipped but the influence of Eileen Drewery, his faith healer, remains. Supporters of Tottenham Hotspur should not scoff — her hands perhaps hold the key to the continuing good health of Darren Anderton, the England and Spurs midfield player.

Anderton frequently visits Drewery and will not be deterred, despite the adverse publicity that she has received in the past week. The player formerly known as "Sicknote" has played in 28 of Tottenham's 33 fixtures this season, compared with 39 in the previous three league campaigns.

Proof of Drewery's powers or mere coincidence? George Graham, the Tottenham manager, is not sure. "I don't know who should take the credit, her or me?" he said, tongue firmly in cheek.

Anderton led a rousing display, pouring scorn on those who still point to his fragility with a vigorous contribution against a Coventry City side bristling with commitment.

His skidding 25-yard shot shaved a post in the thirteenth minute and set a metronomic and almost monotonous flow that persisted throughout. Tottenham attacked, missed chances and then regrouped; Coventry defended, slung the ball forward for Huckerby to chase and then retreated.

Ferdinand headed wide, Nielsen misjudged Anderton's cross, Freund drove over the crossbar, Ferdinand erred again and Sinton struck the bar. All in the first half. In the second, Ferdinand shot wide, Iversen scooped over from four yards and Nielsen miscued Anderton's cross. Still, they extended their unbeaten run to ten matches and Graham was reasonably satisfied. "It's coming together nice and slowly," he said.

Coventry could take only crumbs of comfort but will be happy with the belated introduction of Mohammed Konjic, the Bosnia defender, who signed from AS Monaco for £2 million. "He's a big lad and not bad, either." Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "I wouldn't like to clean out his cage."

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, M Tarrico (sub: T Sherwood, 86min) — D Anderton, A Nielsen, S Freund, A Sinton — S Iversen (sub: C Armstrong, 70), L Ferdinand
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams (sub: M Konjic, 52), G Breen (sub: J Aloisi, 90) — P Telfer, G McAllister, T E Soltvedt (sub: P Clement, 70), S Froggatt — D Huckerby, N Whelan
Referee: S Lodge

Burton points Derby in right direction



DERBY COUNTY 2
EVERTON 1

By Kevin McCarra

IF reputations are hard to win, they can be even more difficult to retain. Derby County, sixth in the table, remain aspirants towards a Uefa Cup place, but it took Deon Burton's second goal, in the 85th minute, to win a game in which they had been behind. If Jim Smith's side are establishing themselves, Everton are becoming stuck and, fourth from bottom, face months of relegation skirmishes.

The difference between the clubs was not apparent for much of the match, although Derby were persistent after the interval. The mysteries of fate were encapsulated in the form of Burton. In December he was on loan to Barnsley, who, not entirely jocularly, were said to be eager to buy him after his first appearance and just as keen to return him after the next.

But with three goals in the past three fixtures that he has started, there has been a quicksilver change in the previously inconsistent Jamaican.

That knack for transformation eludes Everton. The only alterations took place against their wishes, when David Unsworth had to be replaced because of a calf strain and reorganisation diminished their resilience in defence.

Until then, Everton were prospering. Their reputation for penalty-box harmlessness is left behind when they leave Goodison. In the 37th minute, Olivier Dacourt found Francis Jeffers, the teenager who was making his first full appearance for the club. The young forward then placed it unintentionally into the path of Nick Barmby, who finished with a smart shot.

Given their rigour in defence and speed on the break, it seemed that Walter Smith's side might flourish. Derby, then, were too elaborate and only in the second half did they harass the visitors. After 51 minutes, Francesco Baiano released Paulo Wanchope and, when he crossed, Richard Dunne was lying on the ground, having lost his balance when Burton brushed against him. The Jamaican glided an awkward, bouncing ball into the net.

"Burton is having a taste of success," Smith, the Derby manager, said, "and I hope he will work even harder now to become better." Five minutes from time, Dorigo crossed and Wanchope pounded a header that Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, did well to thrust into the air. Burton was able to run at the ball and outjump bigger opponents to head home.



Barmby: gave Everton a boost with opening goal

The satisfaction of Derby, after a mere two defeats in 13 matches, is tempered only by the fact that they lost Wanchope with an injured hamstring and expect to be without him for the FA Cup-tie at Huddersfield Town next weekend, though Dean Sturridge is expected to be fit by then.

There are no consolations for Everton, who are now without a win in their past seven matches. Barmby did give them their first goal in more than five hours of Premiership football, but that is a fact for statisticians rather than solace for supporters.

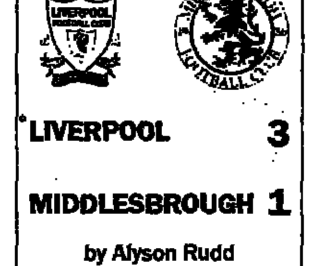
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — S Prior, H Carbonari, I Stimac — J Laursen (sub: D Powell, 76min), L Carsley, S Eranio, A Dorigo — F Baiano (sub: K Harper, 76) — P Wanchope (sub: J Hunt, 88), D Burton.
EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — R Dunne, S Watson, D Unsworth (sub: A Farley, 46) — M Ward, D Hutchison, O Dacourt, N Barmby, M Ball — F Jeffers, I Bakayoko
Referee: G Poll

Photograph, page 32

Middlesbrough seek early-season sparkle



Ince celebrates after scoring Liverpool's third goal



LIVERPOOL 3
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

by Alyson Rudd

PERHAPS it is time to jog the memory. Middlesbrough enjoyed a spirited start to the season. They could win at Old Trafford and feel unlucky not to take all three points from Highbury. But right now, there is an aura of the underdog — almost of the willing victim — about them.

This was apparent in how the team played and how their manager spoke. Middlesbrough plodded through this match in the style of an elderly librarian, who once dreamed of being an actor and used to attend premieres sporting a purple velvet bow-tie, but who now smiles ruefully as he stamps another book.

Bryan Robson approached the game in fatalistic fashion, having identified the day before, the FA Carling Premiership match against Everton on Wednesday as the one in which Middlesbrough must start winning again.

Hopes of victory were not dashed because, it seems, there were none present in the first place. Instead, Robson said he was pleased with the performance, that he was not as disappointed as he had been after Middlesbrough's two previous defeats.

Gerard Houllier, like Robson, has been linked with the job of England manager. Neither are interested, but if they had been up for an interview on Saturday, Houllier would have been offered the post. For if attitude wins games, only one team were in it.

Liverpool were sluggish at times and no one will be rushing to buy the video of this match, but they possessed both the will to win and the knowledge that they would. All three of the home side's goals came in the first half.

First, Redknapp's corner was headed down by Ince, somewhat clumsily, but Fowler reacted swiftly with an overhead kick that Owen pounced on. Redknapp set up the second, too, weaving his way to the edge of the area before releasing Bjornebye, whose cross was met by Heggem, prancing like a lamb, for a superb volley.

McManaman, Owen and Ince combined neatly for the third, Ince finishing with as much craft as Owen would have displayed.

Although Liverpool conceded a goal in the second half — a fine volley from Stamp from an acute angle — Houllier again won on points.

When Matteo was sent off in the 64th minute, Houllier kept his nerve. So many managers overreact to a red card. They quickly make reckless substitutions, but Houllier simply allowed those players used to Middlesbrough's pedestrian ways to adapt, rather than introduce uncertainty.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Carragher, D Matteo, S Staunton — V Heggem, S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, S I Bjornebye — M Owen (S Gerrard, 80), R Fowler (K Riedle, 80)
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, S Vickers, G Pallister — G Festa (P Stamp, 61), R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, A Townsend (sub: N Maddison, 72), D Gordon — B Deane, M Beck
Referee: P Jones

Carbone rises above the rest



LEICESTER CITY 0
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

by Peter Robinson

DANNY WILSON was not going to talk about Paolo Di Canio. "I am not going to talk about Paolo Di Canio," he said. The words Paolo, Di and Canio were banned, not to be mentioned. That subject was closed, shut, finished, finito. No amount of wheedling was going to get him to drop his guard.

You could hardly blame him. The Sheffield Wednesday manager must be sick to death of talking about the eccentric Italian, the referee-pushing, emotionally tortured striker, who has dominated the season so far at Hillsborough, even though he last played for the club in September.

Di Canio this, Di Canio that. Paolo is in Rome. Paolo is coming back, no he isn't, yes he is, no, yes, maybe. He is joining West Ham United, he is going, going, gone. Thank heavens for that, the season starts here. So one and all chanted aimlessly for a few minutes, then there was one last, ever so sweet: "Can we say that, since a certain person has left, it has helped his former striking partner to find his best form?"

Wilson jumped in with both feet. "If anybody has benefited from the whole scenario, it is Benito Carbone," he said. "He has been magnificent, he is happy and he is addressing the other side of his game, working hard when he has not got the ball."

When Di Canio was at the club, it was easy to imagine the two Italians sitting in a corner of the dressing-room, gabbling away in their native tongue. Now, with Di Canio gone, Carbone appears to have taken stock of where he is. Suddenly, he is loving life in south Yorkshire, a new four-year contract is on the table and he will sign it.

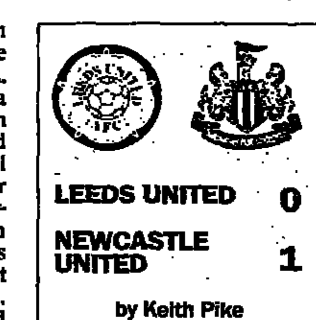
This win was convincing, but if Carbone earned most of the plaudits, he was simply the icing on the cake. Des Walker was masterful at the back, Wim Jonk dominated the midfield and Petter Rudi had fun on the left wing.

Leicester seemed almost disinterested. After Hinchcliffe denied Izzet on the goal line, they had barely a shot worth the name. Wednesday had to wait until the start of the second half to take the lead, Jonk heading in from close range after a mistake by Keller. He was involved in the second goal, too, starting a move inside the Wednesday half and, as Alexandersson crossed, selling a sweet dummy that gave Carbone the chance to drive in from the edge of the area.

It was a goal fit to win any game, Wilson said, and he was right. Whether the teamwork that went into it would have been present if a certain person was still at the club was a moot point.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — M Elliott, G Taggart (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 56 min), S Walsh (sub: F Sinclair, 56) — A Impey (sub: T Zagorakis, 76), M Izzet, N Lennon, R Ullathorne, S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner, P Rudi — B Carbone, A Booth
Referee: G Willard

Solano takes opportunity to rattle O'Leary's babies



LEEDS UNITED 0
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

by Keith Pike

DAVID O'LEARY calls them "my babies", which, on a line through George Graham, gives Howard Wilkinson a group of great-grandchildren that anyone would be proud of. Maybe one day he will invite one or two of them over for a kickabout in his back garden at Wembley. But when Wilkinson leads England's grown-ups into action against France there on Wednesday, the little 'uns should be tucked up in bed.

No one can doubt the richness of Wilkinson's legacy to Leeds United. Seven graduates from the academy that he established at Elland Road have helped to give the team a youthful, exuberant zest this season and the likes of Alan Smith and Jonathon Woodgate, let off the reins by O'Leary, are clearly outstanding talents with international futures. But they are also desperately tired and just when O'Leary is keen to pack them upstairs for a mid-season nap, he finds himself having to keep them awake.

"You would like to leave a few out, because they are struggling, but I have no choice," the Leeds manager said on Saturday, when a home defeat by Newcastle United, seven days after a wholesale collapse at The Dell, confirmed suspicions of temporary teenage burn-out and relegated Leeds to sixth in the FA Carling Premiership. Defeat in the FA Cup next weekend by Tottenham Hotspur could reduce their season into a scramble for a Uefa Cup place.

"Some of the young kids are tired, but I simply have nobody else to bring in," O'Leary said. "But they are talented players and in the next few years that quality will show." Reinforcements, he said, could not be bought before the summer.

There were few signs of fatigue early on against Newcastle when, driven on by Bowyer — a relative veteran at 22 — Leeds' adrenaline rush had Ruud Gullit's side penned back. Wijnhard nearly scored from Smith's cross, but once Newcastle sensed their opportunity and the tackles began to fly in, Leeds began to look their tender years.

Solano thundered a shot against Martyn's left-hand post and Ketsbaia failed dismally when one-on-one with the goalkeeper to beat, but just after the hour Ketsbaia, Hamann and Solano exchanged passes on the right, the ball broke kindly from Woodgate's tackle and Solano pounced for the winner.

Sexy it wasn't, although Gullit was titillated. "The players want to know if you are going to ask about a rift in the camp again," the Newcastle manager, peeved by recent rumours regarding his relationship with his squad, said. "Our team spirit is our strength." Of flair, though, there is still precious little evidence.

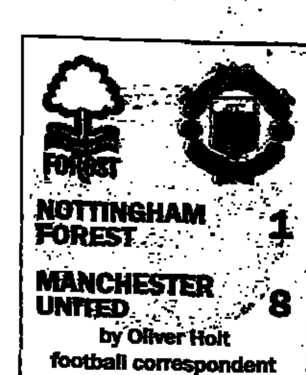
LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): N Martyn — I Harte, J Woodgate, L Radebe, D Granville (sub: G Halle, 66min) — A I Haaland, L Bowyer, D Hopkin — A Smith, C Wijnhard (sub: W Korsten, 66), H Kewell
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — A Griffin, S Howey, L Charvet, W Barton — N Solano, D Hamann, G Speed, S Glass (sub: G Brady, 66) — L Saha (sub: A Andersson, 87), T Ketsbaia
Referee: U Rennie





FA Carling Premiership: Ferguson's four-goal reserve proves there is no substitute for class

Lethal Solskjaer treasures his pieces of eight



NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 8

by Oliver Holt
football correspondent

NOT since a shaft of light illuminated the face of Harry Lime in a Viennese doorway has anyone played the Third Man with quite the same conviction as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Consigned again to the cameo role that has become his lot, Manchester United's own version of a cold-blooded assassin gatecrashed the big picture in the victory over Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Saturday and made sure that he was the star of the show.

There were times this season when Solskjaer was almost forgotten in the touchy-feely love-in that the explosive partnership between Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole has become. Cole and Yorke eat together, go out together, listen to music together. And they score together. As strikers they were made for each other.

As they have prospered, setting Europe and the FA Carling Premiership alight with the telepathic play that was best illustrated in Cole's goal against Barcelona in the Nou Camp at the end of November, Solskjaer has laboured in their shadows. Yorke and Cole, quite rightly, have been showered with adulation and hyperbole.

Until a couple of weeks ago, the thought of splitting them seemed as sacrilegious as separating Torvill and Dean, Redgrave and Holmes or Clough and Taylor. It felt as if it would have been going against nature, spoiling something so right, trying to fix something that quite definitely was not broken.

Solskjaer, though, has changed that. He was linked with £5 million moves to Everton and Tottenham Hotspur early in the season, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, wanted him to stay and Solskjaer did not really want to go. The Norwegian has vindicated that decision by scoring 15 goals, many after coming off the bench. Somehow, he has managed to force himself into fourth place in the ranks of Premiership scorers. Only Yorke, Michael Owen and Cole have more.

Even on Saturday, when Cole and Yorke had joined once more in a goalscoring competition that is becoming a bit like the American baseball home-run race last summer, Solskjaer refused to accept second billing. Cole and Yorke had scored two each and United were in cruise control, but still he refused to be outdone.

Unhappy at the lack of opportunities he is being given in his third season at Old Trafford after his move from Molde, he came on in the 72nd minute and promptly scored four goals in 13 minutes. Ferguson promised that Solskjaer would start their FA Cup fifth-round tie against Fulham next Sunday and Yorke, who had given way to him, looked almost crestfallen when he discussed his contribution.

"One of the reasons I wanted to go to Manchester United was that there was competition all through the squad," Yorke said. "You have got to be on your toes all the time. You need good players to make you better. You would think Andy Cole and I had done all we needed to this afternoon, but then Ole comes on and scores four. You need that kind of competition when you are as heavily involved in as many games as we are. It's beautiful when you think about it. It is lovely."

There were only 18 minutes left when Solskjaer came on, only ten to go when he scored his first, a tap-in from a precise cross by Gary Neville. Two minutes before full-time he got a second, lashing his shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the area after Dave Beasant had parried his initial attempt to lob the goalkeeper.

A run and pass from Paul Scholes set up his hat-trick and, on the stroke of full time, a Scholes miskick landed at his feet and he dispatched it nonchalantly across Beasant into the far corner. He had scored four goals in the space of 13 minutes, although the record books will say ten minutes because two were in injury time. Never has a substitute scored so prodigiously.

The victory set a record for a United away win, eclipsing the 8-2 FA Cup win over Northampton Town in 1970, in which George Best scored six times. Solskjaer looked almost embarrassed as he collected the match ball and fled the stadium without a word to reporters or waiting television crews.

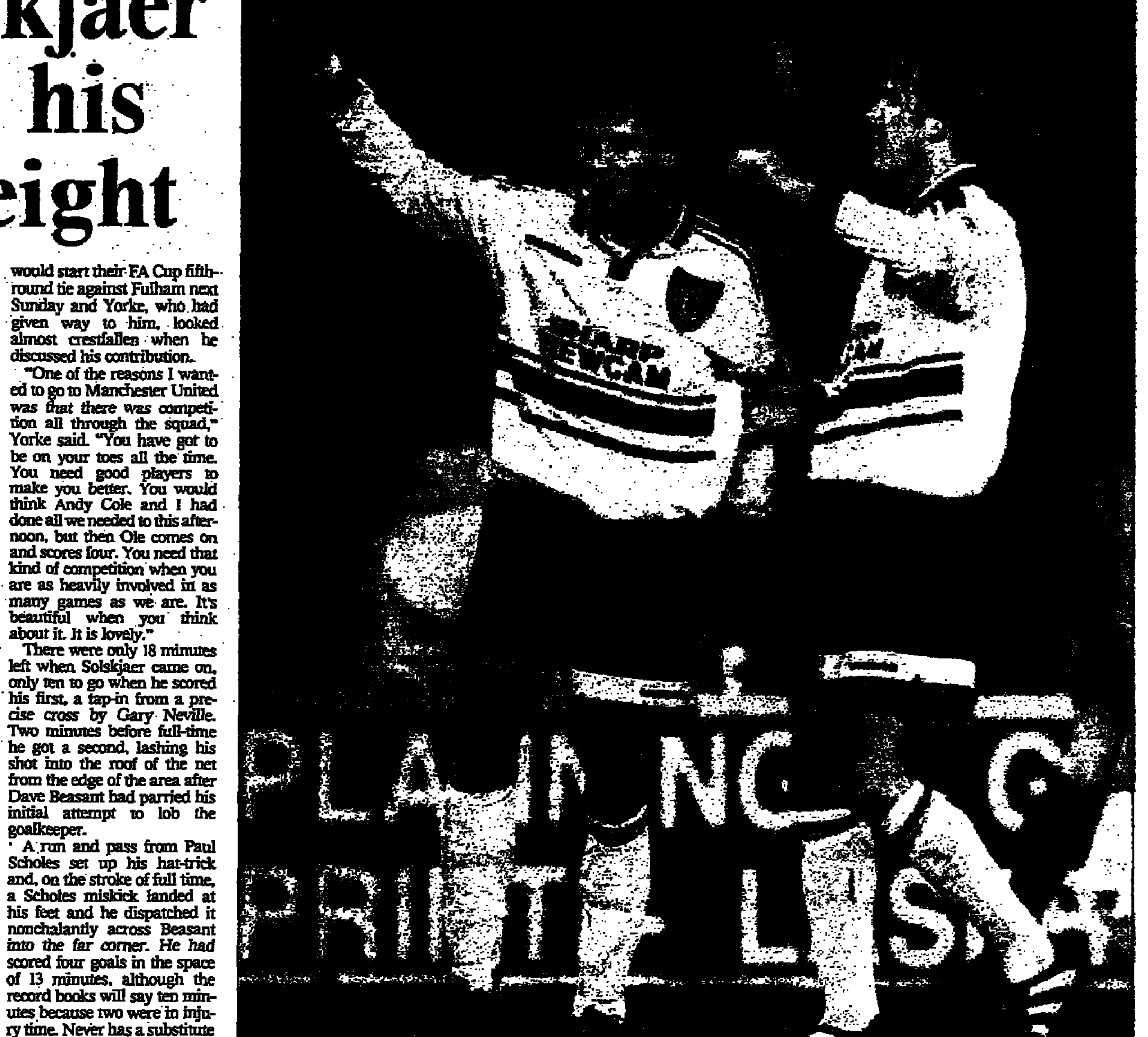
Ferguson was happy to do his talking for him. "Amazing", "fantastic" and "marvellous" were just three of the words he used. "He is a finisher," he said. "There is no question about that. We have tried playing him out on the left, but he is better as a central striker. That is where he prefers to play.

"His contribution has been terrific all season, but he wants more minutes on the pitch as well as the goals. He realises he is up against two fantastic in-form strikers and he accepts that, but he has great ability to adapt to the pace of a game as a sub."

If Solskjaer grabbed the headlines, David Beckham deserved much of the credit for being the architect of many of the goals. Beckham, keen to impress the watching Howard Wilkinson, was superb. His range of passing was breathtaking, his accuracy unwavering, his temperament unquestionable. Time and again he unlocked the Forest defence with raking long balls that were nectar for the forwards.

Forest's naivety in defence had allowed Yorke and Cole to put United in control long before Solskjaer appeared. For the home side, it was a harsh lesson about life at the bottom and Ron Atkinson was blunt in his analysis. "We were battered, spanked, murdered," he said. "I'm just glad they didn't put Solskjaer on earlier."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D Beasant — J Harkes, C Palmer, J O Hjelde, C Armstrong (sub: H Porfirio, 74min) — S Stone, S Gemmill (sub J Mattsson, 58), A Johnson, A Rogers — P van Hooijdonk, J-C Darcheville (sub: D Freedman, 26).
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, J Stam, R Johnsen, P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane (sub: J Curtis, 72), P Scholes, J Blomqvist (sub: N Butt, 76) — A Cole, D Yorke (sub. O G Solskjaer, 72).
Referee: P Alcock.


Solskjaer, left, is congratulated by Beckham after scoring the third of his four goals against Nottingham Forest

Yorke, left, and Cole scored two goals apiece, only to be upstaged by their Manchester United team-mate

SETTING THE GOAL STANDARD
THE TEN BIGGEST PREMIERSHIP VICTORIES

March 3, 1995	Manchester United 9	Ipswich Town 0
FEBRUARY 6, 1999	Nottingham Forest 1	Manchester United 8*
November 18, 1995	Blackburn Rovers 7	Nottingham Forest 0
October 25, 1997	Manchester United 7	Barnsley 0
April 4, 1995	Sheffield Wednesday 1	Nottingham Forest 7
October 3, 1992	Blackburn Rovers 7	Norwich City 1
March 12, 1994	Newcastle United 7	Swindon Town 1
February 11, 1995	Aston Villa 7	Wimbledon 1
November 16, 1996	Everton 7	Southampton 1
December 28, 1996	Newcastle United 7	Tottenham Hotspur 1

* biggest away win

United have scored 92 goals in all competitions this season and boast three of the four top goalscorers in the Premiership — only Michael Owen with 19 for Liverpool splits them.
Dwight Yorke: 21 goals from 26 full appearances.
Andy Cole: 17 goals from 23 full appearances and 4 as a substitute.
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: 15 goals from 10 full appearances and 11 as a sub.

Zola fails to hide Chelsea's self-doubt

CHELSEA 1
SOUTHAMPTON 0

by Kevin McCarra

AS THE weather turned nasty on Saturday evening, two Chelsea supporters sat cradling their pints at a table outside a pub on the King's Road. They snubbed the conditions, paying them no attention at all. After the sort of match that they had undergone at Stamford Bridge, what was a little cold rain down their collars? It had been the sort of match to demoralise even the victors.

While watching Chelsea's wheezing win, one wondered how football became the world game. The only clue came in the craftsmanship of the free kick by Gianfranco Zola, in the eleventh minute, that decided the outcome. Although the firmness with which he steered the ball into the corner of the net was admirable, Southampton co-operated by misaligning their defensive wall. In this game, the highlight had its flaw and most episodes were disfigured completely.

There was a weediness about the morale of his team. No one would kick sand in their faces, but rivals pelted Chelsea with the goals they were scoring elsewhere. When United and Arsenal run up 8-1 and 4-0 victories, respectively, away from home, there is a chastening effect on the other challengers.

In these situations, there are always handfuls of reasons to be grasped. Of their several injuries, the most harmful concern Tore Andre Flo, who may be back in a week or two, and Gustavo Poyet, whose date of return is still to be determined.

Lynne Truss.........................33

Chelsea especially missed their Uruguayan on Saturday as the visitors continually nudged them back, only lacking the necessary sharpness to carve the match into a different shape. Egil Ostenstad drew a save from Ed de Goey when he could have passed to the unmarked Jim Beattie. Mark Hughes, with four opportunities to demonstrate his trademark volley, botched three and lifted the other into the goalkeeper's hands. His return to his previous club ended in pain when he was carried off on a stretcher after Marcel Desailly caught him on the ankle with a bad foul that went unpunished.

That coarse deed felt like further evidence of a slump in standards. "Maybe we have lost a bit of confidence," Graham Rix, the Chelsea coach, said. "We are not as fluent as we can be." Self-doubt is an odd ailment for a side whose central defence is assembled out of two World Cup-winners, but anxiety will always be one of the ordeals for a club aspiring to the championship.

With Chelsea unwell, many spectators may wish that they had not intruded on their privacy by paying this visit.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — D Petrescu, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Wise, J Morris, R di Matteo, C Babayaro (sub: B Goldbaek, 77min) — M Forssell (sub: M Nicholls, 60), G Zola.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — S Hiley (sub: W Bridge, 60), J Dodds, C Lundekvam, P Colleter — M Oakley, M Hughes (sub: S Bradley, 89), C Marsden, H Kachloul — J Beattie, E Ostenstad
Referee: R Harris



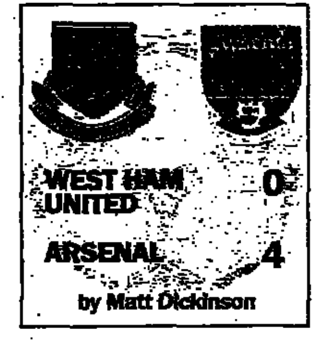
Alyson Rudd

Two clubs and two headaches. Wimbledon have been kept so busy in both cups that their supporters have all but boycotted the trip to The Valley, taking up only half their ticket allocation.

Charlton Athletic's pain is more severe — one point from their past nine games and no win from 13. They are without Richard Rufus (broken arm) but Danny Mills returns from suspension. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, has had almost a full week in which to re-energise his troops after their FA Cup defeat by Tottenham Hotspur.

CHARLTON (possible 4-4-2): S Royce — D Mills, E Youds, S Brown, C Tiler — C Powell, M Kinsella, N Redfearn, J Robinson — A Hunt, M Pringle.
WIMBLEDON (possible 4-4-2): N Sullivan — B Thatcher, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — N Ardley, A Roberts, R Earle, J Euell — C Leaburn, J Hartson.
Referee: D Elleray.
TELEVISION: Sky Sports One 7pm.
PREDICTION: Away win.

Bergkamp keeps Arsenal firmly in hunt



WEST HAM UNITED 0
ARSENAL 4

by Matt Dickinson

UNLESS Michael Owen equals the 73 goals that he once scored in a rather productive season as the terror of schoolboy defences, the Footballer of the Year trophy seems destined to end up in foreign hands. Doesn't it always?

Dwight Yorke, as he does for Manchester United, leads the way, and David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, is the roaming outsider. But Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira tap relentlessly at the voting senses, just as they did against a feeble West Ham United side who soon caved in. Marc-Vivien Foe, the midfield player whom Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, described as a monster, looked as if he had been hit by a truck.

If Petit and Vieira must surely figure high in the polling, what also of Dennis Bergkamp, the Footballer of the Year for the season 1997-98, whose marvellous goal on Saturday was not the only evidence that his best form is returning. The Dutchman, in patches, was outstanding and the West Ham defence, unsure whether it was a back four or five, finished the game at sixes and sevens.

"For me, Dennis is the best attacking player in the Premiership," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "He is the most complete forward. When he came back from the World Cup he needed a rest. Maybe I made a mistake by picking him to play when he was not really ready.

"It is the final ball that is the difference. He is so influential in our attacking moves: we still dominate when he is missing, but lack the final touch."

Wenger's problem is that Bergkamp, as well as Petit, will be suspended when he takes his side to face Manchester United at Old Trafford for a game of momentous championship import on Wednesday week — the outcome of which will have a huge sway over the destiny of the title.

Trailing United by five points, albeit with a game in hand, Arsenal will feel it is a match that they cannot afford to lose, but the signs are good. Nine hours and 24 minutes of play have elapsed since the Arsenal rearguard last leaked a goal, and it never looked likely to happen against a West Ham attack for whom Di Canio appeared to be going for the world record for backflicks rather than for goal.

Arsenal picked off their goals seemingly at will, and Seaman was troubled only by a couple of long-range shots after the half-time introduction of Berkovic.

Arsenal should have been ahead from the 31st minute, when Overmars raced on to a incisive through ball by Bergkamp, but the first touch from Overmars was poor and his shot, after he had rounded Hislop, the goalkeeper, was cleared off the line.

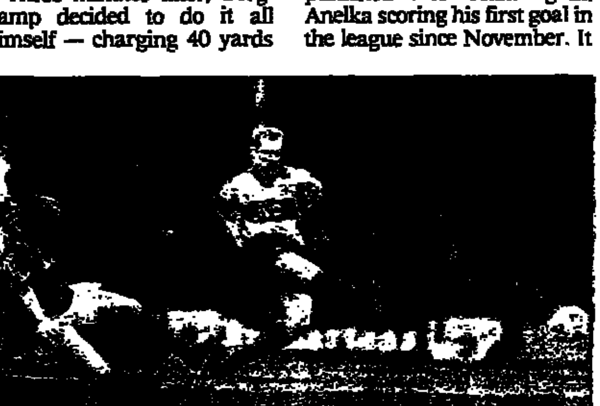
Three minutes later, Bergkamp decided to do it all himself — charging 40 yards before striking a firm, low drive from outside the penalty area. Foe was booked for attempting to trip him.

Thereafter, Arsenal raised themselves when the mood took them. Overmars made it 2-0 shortly before half-time after a good break down the right by Parlour, but it was not until the 83rd minute that they punished West Ham again, Anelka scoring his first goal in the league since November. It was a fine finish, but the teenager still seems to be at odds with himself and the world.

One Sunday newspaper attributed some outraged comments from him about a clash of personalities with Overmars, and if Wenger decides that they need to be kept apart, it is the France international who will make way. Nwankwo Kanu will be available as soon as he can prove his fitness.

Parlour completed things with a scrambled goal five minutes from time, and West Ham trooped off to an unpleasant inquest. Hopeful of staying in contention for Europe until just a month or so ago, they are now sliding towards the bottom half of the table. Redknapp must act quickly to stop the rot.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2) S Hislop — T Breacker (sub E Berkovic 45 min), I Pearce, R Ferdinand, J Dicks — T Sinclair, F Lampard, M Foe, S Minto — P Di Canio, P Kitson.
ARSENAL (4-4-2) D Seaman — L Dixon, T Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, N Anelka
Referee: J Winter.

Bergkamp opens the scoring for Arsenal at Upton Park




FOOTBALL

Jaded Germans left red-faced by Florida show

OVERSEAS VIEW



Rob Hughes

IT WAS once suggested by Egidius Braun. the head of the German FA. that England and Germany should settle their dispute over who should bid for the 2006 World Cup by playing for the honour. Now. if ever there was a time. we should press Herr Braun for that opportunity.

Seldom in four decades have the German national team been at such a low ebb as in Florida on Saturday night. where they succumbed 3-0 to the United States at Jacksonville. Moreover. the goals were all aided by poor defending and the goalscorers. Jovan Kirovski. Tony Sanneh and Claudio Reyna. are all American citizens who earn their living less than spectacularly with German clubs.

"I think the US were truly better opponents." Erich Ribbeck. the Bundestrainer. said. "They were more aggressive and more agile than we."

Kirovski began the scoring in the tenth minute. preying on error. He now plays for Fortuna Cologne in the German second division. but from the edge of the penalty box he found the top corner of the net. Sanneh. from Hertha Berlin. scored 14 minutes later. and in the 26th minute Reyna sprinted clear of Germany's lamentable offside trap to make it conclusive.

The excuses? There were some. of course. Germany seldom perform well when there is little at stake: they are on their mid-winter break. and a handful of their colleagues were absent. Oliver Bierhoff. their captain. for example. was engaged in Italy's top game. the goalless draw earned by AC Milan in Florence. Christian Worns was on duty for Paris St Germain. Dietmar Hamann was with Newcastle United and Steffen Freund reported for duty with Tottenham Hotspur.

Nonetheless. the Germans expected better from a recognisable line-up. captained by Lothar Matthäus. A month away from his 38th birthday and making a record 131st international appearance. he said: "Everything went well for us this week in training. but today it was a disaster."

The true Germany. or pretenders? "It was a friendly in February." shrugged Bruce Arena. the new United States head coach. said.

In Europe. Fiorentina. still the leaders in Serie A. will be seeking every sympathy after their failure to win in the Artemio Franchi stadium for the first time in 14 matches. They were held. and for spells dominated. by a resurgent Milan. but the real anxiety for Trapattoni. the Fiorentina coach. was the painful withdrawal seven minutes from the end of Gabriele Batistuta.

The powerful Argentinian had been injured moments before. making a typically brave headed clearance to deny Bierhoff. He then sprinted upfield. chasing his nineteenth goal in his twentieth game. when suddenly he collapsed as if hit by rifle fire. It looked a serious hamstring injury. Lazio were creating their own club record with a ninth consecutive triumph. Lazio. with yet another goal from Christian Vieri and two from Marcelo Salas. beat Perugia to close to within a point of the Florence team.

The contest in the Artemio Franchi was not as dull as the scoreline suggests. George Weah hit the inside of a post from 20 yards. Edmundo replied by hitting the crossbar and Francesco Toldo. the Fiorentina goalkeeper. produced an athletic save from a swirling shot from Zvonimir Boban.

There were goals aplenty at the San Siro from Internazionale. How erratic this team. who visit Manchester United in the next round of the Champions' League in March. are proving. Yesterday. in thrashing Empoli 5-1. their chief menace was Youri Djorkaef. the Frenchman. who will be in action. presumably. against England at Wembley on Wednesday.

Meanwhile. David Platt left little behind when he departed Sampdoria just 48 days into a 2½-year contract. His former team still cannot stir themselves from the foot of Serie A. and finished scoreless at home against Cagliari.

For one Italian. the goals did come. Fabrizio Ravanelli scored twice as Olympique Marseille returned to the top of the French League by beating Bastia 3-1.

IAN STEWART



Shields. left. the Dunfermline defender. tackles Johansson. the Rangers forward. who scored twice later in the match

Kanchelskis inspires Rangers

Dunfermline	0
Rangers	3

By Phil Gordon

ONE moment of sublime skill from Andrei Kanchelskis lifted this match above its station. and lifted Rangers further above their pursuers. The 56th-minute volley by the Ukrainian winger belonged in a better setting than East End Park and two further goals from Jonatan Johansson. the latter a tap-in after 89 minutes. secured Rangers' 12-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League.

Dunfermline's record of just two league victories all season has contributed to their relegation plight. However. it is their capacity to draw matches — 13 in all — which has been more costly. Dick Campbell. the caretaker manager. who took over after Bert Paton resigned last month. has pledged that if his side are to go down. they will do so fighting. but there was little sign of the attacking intent that has marked Dunfermline's recent games.

Maybe it was the treacherous pitch. glistening with white as the temperature dropped below freezing. that caused Campbell's players to be cautious. but they certainly stuck to a rigid formation in the opening phase. getting everyone behind the ball. Kanchelskis almost pierced that armour in the first minute but Lee Butler held the shot well.

The irony is that. while Dunfermline have been labelled negative. they possess in Andy Smith a striker who scored 26 league goals last season. Smith almost demonstrated that ability in the ninth minute when he leapt to power in a header from Chris McGroarty's cross and Stefan Klos. the Rangers goalkeeper. fumbled in gathering the ball.

Rangers. though. continued to look far more menacing. and Jorg Albertz forced Butler to save his fierce 30-yard shot before the goalkeeper made an impressive save in the 22nd minute by turning Johansson's header past the post.

However. Dunfermline grew more adventurous and David Graham. the striker. would have scored against the club that sold him earlier in the season had Klos not blocked his 36th-minute shot from close range. Kanchelskis bundling the rebound clear.

Dunfermline gave Rangers an uneasy introduction to the second half with a succession of crosses into the area. One of them almost provided a goal in the 55th minute. when Smith struck a low shot that Klos parried.

However. within 60 seconds. Rangers went ahead. Neil McCann. who had replaced Nicholson at half-time. picked out Kanchelskis at the back of the area and he struck a dipping left-foot volley into the roof of the net.

Rangers' relief was palpable and four minutes later they doubled their advantage. McCann and Johansson exchanging passes before the Finland player struck his shot past Butler. Smith should have reduced the deficit with 15 minutes left. after Kanchelskis was judged to have pushed Colin Nish in the penalty area. but the striker failed to hit the target with his penalty kick.

DUNFERMLINE (3-5-2): L Butler — G Shields. A Tod. G Johnson — R Huxford. G Shaw (sub: J Fraser. 83min). H French. D Ferguson. C McGroarty (sub: C Nish. 73) — D Graham. A Smith

RANGERS (4-4-2): S Klos — B Nicholson (sub: N McCann. 46). S Porrini. L Amoruso. T Vidmar — A Kanchelskis (sub: C Miller. 76). B Ferguson. J Albertz. G van Bronckhorst — J Johansson. R Wallace

Referee: W Young

St Johnstone continued their pursuit of a place in the Uefa Cup when a penalty by Gary Bollan secured a 1-0 victory at home to Dundee United. Motherwell's revival was halted at Dundee. who won with a goal from Steven Tweed.

Larsson lifts Celtic's spirits

By Phil Gordon

HENRIK LARSSON took Feyenoord. his previous employers. to court in a bid to push through his transfer to Celtic 20 months ago. The Dutch club would be entitled to pursue a counter-claim against the Scottish champions right now — for theft.

Larsson's destruction of Heart of Midlothian on Saturday was such a masterclass of movement and balance that even Josef Venglos. the Celtic coach. was moved to describe the Sweden player as "one of the best players in Europe right now."

A haul of 24 goals underlines why Sheffield Wednesday have already had one £4 million bid for the forward rejected this season. That was what the FA Carling Premiership club paid Celtic for Paolo Di Canio last season and Larsson is worth twice as much in the eyes of the 59,815 supporters who hailed his sublime hat-trick at Parkhead.

So. pity poor Feyenoord. who received only £650,000 for Larsson because of a clause in his contract. Larsson has already been named Sweden's Player of the Year. ahead of a clutch of names who play in Serie A. and thanks. in great part. to his inspirational display against England last September. The book is closed already on who will be awarded the Scottish Player of the Year title.

Paul Lambert. the Celtic midfield player. savoured Larsson's display in the 3-0 success and claimed: "Henrik deserves every accolade that is going. He is the best player we have in our country. His movement is so good that defenders find it hard to pin him down, so they stand off him. But he loves that even more."

Whether Larsson's fine play. which was admirably matched by that of Phil O'Donnell and Lubomir Moravcik. brings a more tangible reward in the shape of a second successive championship medal. is debatable because the gap to be bridged with leaders Rangers is still a large one.

Eoin Jess's 13th goal of the season and a header from new signing. Andreas Mayer. saw Kilmarnock. second-placed. lose 2-1 at Aberdeen.

Nationwide League: Leaders regain form while Bradford underline promotion prospects

Jewell's collection upwardly mobile

Bradford City 2
Watford..........................0

By Stephen Wood

CULTURES are colliding at Bradford City. There remains evidence of an insular, but friendly club, aware of their importance for the local community. Then, there is the 21st-century Bradford City, out to impress the rest of the country.

Few clubs in England would hold a minute's silence before kick-off for two supporters who had died recently. Geoffrey Richmond, the chairman, is an affable man who thinks nothing of instigating such a tribute. There are also few clubs in England where it takes three stewards to show members of the media to the press lounge.

Backed by Richmond's financial clout, Bradford are gearing up for the FA Carling Premiership. A place in the top flight has eluded them since 1922, so the achievement of promotion from the Nationwide League could not be overstated. They are in second place, eight points adrift of Sunderland, but recent form has been impressive and they dissected Watford so clinically that Graham Taylor, the visiting manager, said: "I would not have Sunderland as certainties to win this league just yet."

Paul Jewell, the Liverpool-born manager of Bradford, relies on Scouse wit and as solid a 4-4-2 formation as you could wish to see. Richmond's willingness to spend has helped him to create a forward partnership that could be the best outside the Premiership. Lee Mills was bought for £1 million from Port Vale and Robbie Blake was acquired from Darlington for £350,000.

Mills's goal after 64 minutes on Saturday took their combined total to 32 this season and the combination of his strength and Blake's skill is a pleasure to watch. There are clubs who would like to make them Premiership players now, but Jewell is adamant that they will stay. "No one is for sale at this club," he said.

If Bradford do not go up, then multimillion-pound bids might test Jewell's resolve over the summer. It is vital, therefore, that Bradford seize this promotion opportunity for, as Stuart McCall, their midfield player, can testify, they do not present themselves too often.

McCall was in the side that could have gone up to the old first division in 1987. They held an automatic promotion place until the spring, were overtaken by Ipswich Town and then lost in the play-offs.

Thereafter, he was sold to Everton, but when his time at Rangers came to an end last summer, he moved back to Bradford to add valuable experience. He scored the opening goal on Saturday after eight minutes, a low drive from 25 yards, and said: "The difference between this season and 12 years ago is the money that the manager has got to spend.

"Last time, we had to succeed with a squad of 16, but now we are better-equipped and I hope we can go one step farther. This team certainly knows only one way to play — we go for it home and away — but we'll have to wait and see whether it is the right approach."

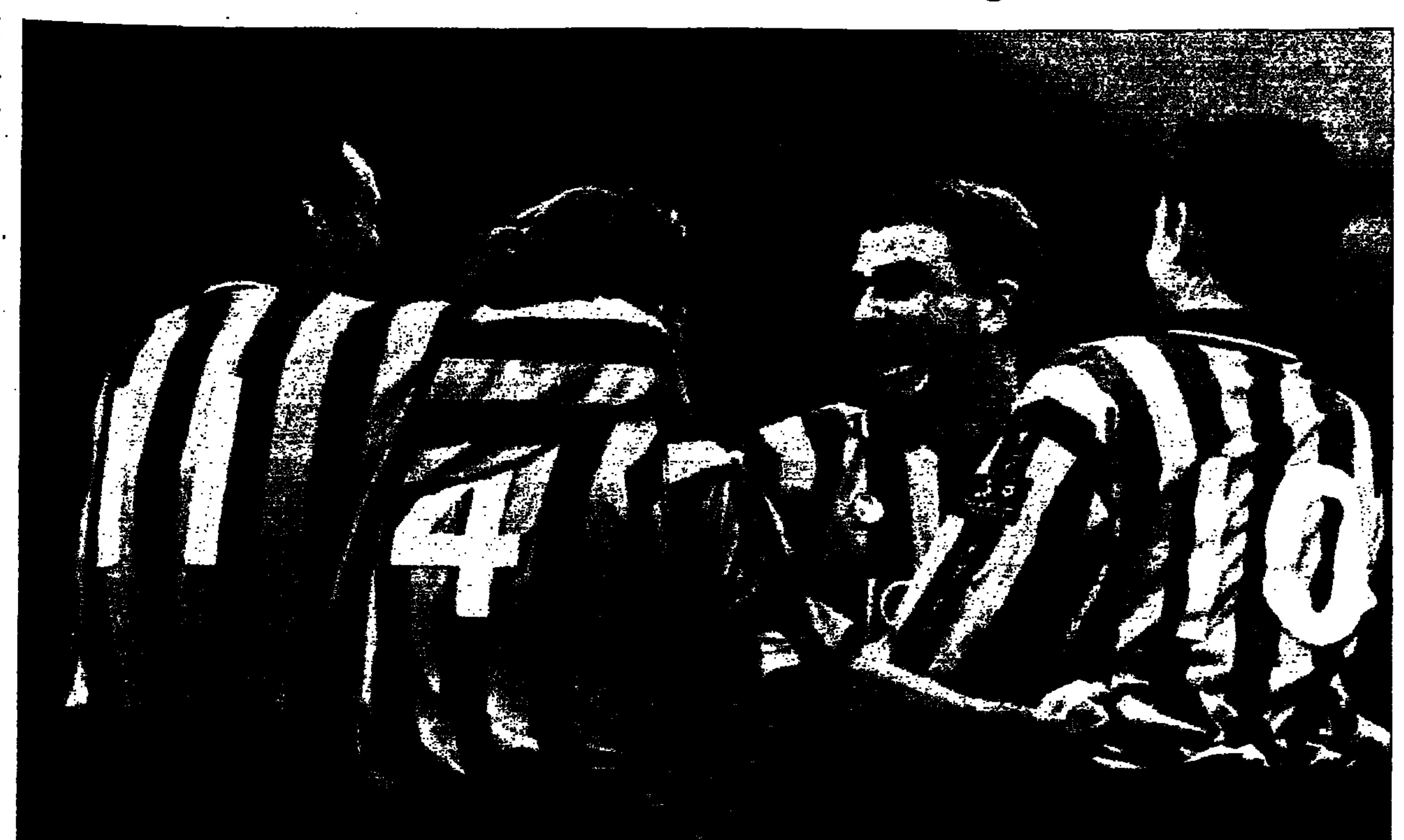
The events of the past week will have struck a chord with Taylor, the former England manager, more than most. He refused to talk about Glenn Hoddle, but it was not difficult to guess what he was feeling as he took his seat on the coach for the homeward journey.

Watford probably will not be promoted this season, and they may even fail to make the play-offs, but that does not mean that Taylor has been unsuccessful.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — S Wright, A O'Brien, A Westwood, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — R Blake, L Mills.

WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Page, B Iroha (sub: P Robinson, 75) — A Daley (sub: J Gudmondsson, 88), M Hyde (sub: A Hazan, 75), R Johnson, P Kennedy — A Smart, N Wright.

Referee: D Pugh.



McCall, No 4, is congratulated by joyful team-mates after giving in-form Bradford City the lead after only nine minutes of the game against Watford on Saturday

Clark in form despite rumours

Sunderland 2
Swindon Town 2

By George Caulkin

IT may seem a mite difficult to fathom, given their standing in the league table this morning, but Sunderland have just emerged, blinking in the sunlight, from their most traumatic episode since the harrowing fate that they suffered in the play-off final last May: a fortnight when allegations have been hurled, loyalty questioned and rebellion mooted.

That this period also encompassed a short golfing break, a Worthington Cup semi-final and the acquisition of another three points towards their inevitable promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, puts this "crisis" into perspective. Had Peter Reid's team contrived to slip up against Swindon Town on Saturday, it would have marked their fourth successive defeat. They did not, and so the storm clouds dissipate, even if a rumble of suppressed discontent remains.

This, after all, is Sunderland's year in limbo — sentenced to another twelve months treading water in the Nationwide League first division. For the fourteenth time at the Stadium of Light this season, Sunderland scored two or more goals. Again, they won and, at the end, Lee Clark, their midfield player, saluted the supporters for their patience and backing.

This was particularly poignant. Clark, who signed from Newcastle United for £2.75 million two years ago — has been at the heart of the rumours and dissent. There has been a public spat with Kevin Ball, his captain, abuse from a minority of fans unhappy with his form since recovering from a broken foo. In turn, Clark is believed to be concerned at Reid's enduring failure to attract new signings, although the manager denies it.

Against Swindon, Clark was Sunderland's most accomplished performer, shooting against the crossbar in the dying moments. The goals came from Niall Quinn and Kevin Phillips, but Clark was in the background, prompting and prodding.

More than anyone, he represents the extent of Sunderland's recent transformation; young, gifted and black and white.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark, K Ball, A Johnston (sub: M Bridges, 86min) — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 83), K Phillips.

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2). F Talia — G Hall (sub: T Gooden, 41), B Burrows, C Taylor — D Kerslake, M Walters, B Howe, G Ndah, S Davis (sub: M Robinson, 68) — C Hay, I Onoura (sub: C Griffin, 68).

Referee: P Robinson.

Davison slip proves costly

Grimsby Town 0
Bolton Wanderers 1

By Pat Gibson

THIS was a rotten result for those who still dream that a little club like Grimsby Town can prove that football is not all about money and a place in the FA Carling Premiership. Perhaps we should join the Flat Earth society.

The contrast between these clubs could hardly be more stark. Grimsby are locked into their antiquated Blundell Park ground on the banks of the Humber, which was packed close to capacity with a crowd of 8,674 on Saturday, while Bolton Wanderers, bankrolled by two excursions into the Premiership in the past four years, lord it in their new Reebok Stadium.

Yet, for the best part of an hour, Grimsby, promoted from the Nationwide League second division via the play-offs last season, completely outplayed their visitors, who retain the nucleus of the side relegated from the Premiership only on goal difference.

Then, nine minutes into the second half, Frandsen hooked on a headed clearance from

Results and tables..............32

Fish and Davison, Grimsby's Northern Ireland goalkeeper, made a complete hash of his punch. Holdsworth, a £3.5 million striker who could probably buy Grimsby with the money he has made from football, calmly dispatched his fourth goal in three matches to give Bolton their ninth win in a run of 13 league games without defeat.

Alan Buckley, the Grimsby manager, who had written in the programme about "a league within a league" in the first division, where clubs like Bolton operate in a different sphere to his own, did not disguise his disappointment at the result.

"It is not sour grapes because we have lost," he said. "Bolton have had a terrific run of results, but we've been a far better side than them for most of the afternoon and to lose to a goal like that ... frustrating is not the word."

Even Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, had to concede that his much-vaunted midfield had been outplayed for once.

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-5-1): A Davison — J McDermott, R Smith, P Handyside, T Gallimore (sub: D Clare, 61min) — K Donovan (sub: M Lever, 82), S Coldicott, K Black, P Groves, D Smith (sub: T Widdrington, 87) — L Nogan.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, M Fish, P Warhurst (sub: R Elliott, 15), M Whitlow — M Johansen, P Frandsen, C Jensen (sub: R Gardner, 69), S Sellars — D Holdsworth, B Taylor

Referee: W Burns.

Francis is reduced to silence

Crystal Palace 1
Birmingham City..................1

By Nick Szczepanik

TREVOR FRANCIS, the Birmingham City manager, declined to attend the post-match press conference on Saturday. Perhaps he did not trust himself not to say something he might regret. More likely, there are some things that simply are too painful to talk about.

Whether he was more distressed by his team throwing away two precious points in stoppage time, or by a performance regarded by regular observers as one of their worst of the season, we may never know. But as it was widely accepted that Birmingham were fortunate to beat Bradford City six days earlier, with a penalty winner in the dying seconds, they should not really complain that a freak own goal with virtually the last kick (and rebound) of the match denied them an undeserved win.

Things could be worse. For Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, they are already. A second home defeat of the season might have left a team forced to rely increasingly on their own young products looking nervously towards the foot of the Nationwide League first division. That is hardly Francis's problem. Birmingham, though dropping one place to fifth, stay in the play-off frame.

They only reached half-time level thanks to Kevin Poole, the goalkeeper, who produced a strong save-of-the-season candidate from Lee Bradbury's header and the crossbar, which repelled a flick from Gordan Petric.

The fates, or at least Clive Wilkes, the referee, were also on Birmingham's side when Craig Moore was adjudged to have pulled back Paul Furlong early in the second half and Furlong converted the penalty.

With the seconds ticking away, Grainger and Rowett were unable to decide who should deal with a diagonal forward pass, with the result that the ball looped back over the stranded Poole and dropped in off the far post.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-4-2-1): K Miller — G Petric, C Moore, A Linighan — J Smith, C Foster (sub: S Tomson 78min), H Mullins, J Fullarton — W Carlisle, L McKenzie (sub: S Evans 83) — L Bradbury.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — G Rowett, G Ablett (sub: M Grainger, 23), M Johnson, S Charlton — J McCarthy, S Robinson, M O'Connor, P Ndlovu (sub: N Forster, 85) — D Adebola (sub. B Hughes, 45), P Furlong.

Referee: C Wilkes

Furlong: penalty prize

Rapley doubles efforts to leave

Rotherham United 2
Southend United................2

By Martin Woods

NOT content with four goals, six bookings, one sending-off and enough on-loan strikers to convince Arthur Scargill that the best fantasy football is being played in his own south Yorkshire backyard, this match also provided a fight-back that was worthy of any football comic strip.

In this case, the hero was Kevin Rapley, the young Southend United striker who is on loan from Brentford, where he has been unable to convince Ron Noades, the owner-manager, of his value to the side.

When John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, responded recently to Stan Collymore's cri de coeur about stress, he suggested that the millionaire's complaint would be more appropriate coming from a Nationwide League third-division player with a wife, kids, mortgage and three months left on his contract. He might have been describing Rapley, now filling Collymore's boots as leader of the Southend attack.

With three games left on his loan contract and desperate to escape Noades's jurisdiction, he capped a magnificent performance with two clinically taken goals to earn a point for Alvin Martin's side, which seemed highly unlikely when they went 2-0 down deep into first-half injury time after having Neil Campbell, their other striker, sent off in the 39th minute for elbowing Dillon in the face. Ingledow and Warne had put the home team in the driving seat. "The two most important goals I have probably scored in my life," was how Rapley described his work.

ROTHERHAM UNITED (4-4-2): M Pollitt — V Warner (sub: C Sedgwick, 64min), A Knill, G Skodder, P Hurst — J Ingledow, D Garner, S Thompson (sub: A Roscoe, 46), P Dillon — J Jackson, P Warne.

SOUTHEND UNITED (4-4-2): M Margetson — M Beard, R Newman, S Coleman, M Booty — K Maher, S Livett (sub: S McGavin, 64), Gooding, S Houghton (sub: B Conlon, 46) — N Campbell, K Rapley.

Referee: R Olivier.

Arrests as fans clash

THE Football Association will await police reports before deciding whether to take any action after trouble at the Nationwide League second division game between Manchester City and Millwall on Saturday.

Eight Millwall supporters and three City fans were arrested during the match at Maine Road — which City won 3-0 — after minor skirmishes between fans. All were charged with public order offences. There was also trouble inside the ground after the home side's opening goal, as seats were thrown.

Stoke wounded by ruthless Fletcher

Bournemouth 4
Stoke City...........................0

By Mel Webb

NOT SO much a mere fortress, more a full-scale exercise in utter impregnability, complete with moat, drawbridge and thick walls, that's Dean Court. Would-be conquerors should be wary, for if by chance they should show signs of penetrating the first line of defence and get beyond the portcullis, they could end up with a vat of boiling oil down their necks. Stoke City tried it on Saturday, and ended up with third-degree burns.

This promised to be a tightly fought Nationwide League second division match between promotion contenders. In the event, it was not even a contest as Bournemouth, who have now played 19 times on their own ground this season without being beaten, sauntered to victory.

Bournemouth were forced to go into battle without Mark Stein, who has scored 23 goals this season, because of flu, but it made little difference. Steve Fletcher, who is negotiating a new contract with Bournemouth, responded with a performance of power and commitment that brought him two goals before half-time.

The game reached its nadir shortly before the interval when Kavanagh, Stoke's principal playmaker, and O'Neill were sent off after Kavanagh's ill-conceived tackle on Hughes brought swift retribution in the form of a forearm jolt from O'Neill.

With Kavanagh gone, Stoke were rendered even more sterile. Steve Robinson and James Hayter, a substitute, took full advantage, adding the third and fourth goals respectively.

AFC BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): M Ovendale — N Young, I Cox, E Howe, J Vincent (sub: J Jenkins, 78min) — J Bailey, S Robinson, R Hughes, J O'Neill — R Bolt (sub: C Warren, 27; sub: J Hayter, 66), S Fletcher.

STOKE CITY (3-5-2): C Muggleton — L Sigurdsson, P Robinson, S Woods (sub: R Forsyth, 59) — C Short (sub: R Wallace, 66), D Oldfield, G Kavanagh, K Keen, B Small — D Crowe, N Mackenzie (sub: K Lightbourne, 59)

Referee: S Bennett.

Leworthy revives dreams

Whyteleafe.........................0
Kingstonian........................3

By Walter Gammie

THE undiminished appetite for goals of David Leworthy turned an awkward FA Umbro Trophy fourth-round tie in Kingstonian's favour at Church Road on Saturday.

After a lacklustre first half display by the Nationwide Conference side and some pointed words from Geoff Chapple, the manager, the former Tottenham Hotspur and Reading striker, now 36, brought his special touch to bear in the 54th minute.

Smartly played in by Pitcher, Leworthy hooked the ball over two defenders and drove a fierce shot that Lidbury could only help into his net. Two minutes later, darting forward, darting back, Leworthy made the space for Mustafa to find him with a perfect free kick that he headed in at the far post. He might easily have had a hat-trick, most notably when Patterson sent him clear, but he let the ball run away from him and was foiled by Lidbury.

Lee Richardson, the Whyteleafe manager, had told his side of the threat from Leworthy, knowing that age serves only to sharpen the awareness of finishers of his calibre.

Richardson's 20-year-old strikers, Scott and Dillon, will have learnt much from the outing. They gave Brown and Crossley an uncomfortable time but failed to make the most of their chances and a penalty, converted by Luckett, gave Kingstonian a flattering third goal.

Leworthy can dream of Wembley. "The only time I've played there is in the five-a-sides — at the Arena," he said.

WHYTELEAFE (3-5-2): M Lidbury — N Hobkins, G Fisher, G Elliott — D Alger, J Kadi (sub: M Dodman, 72 min), N Golley, L Cormack, D McSherry (sub: B George, 64) — P Scott, L Dillon.

KINGSTONIAN (3-5-2). S Farnaby — W Brown (sub. M Lester, 88), M Crossley, M Harris — T Mustafa, S Corbett (sub: G Drewett, 86), G Patterson (sub: D Smith, 86), G Pitcher, C Luckett — D Leworthy, E Akuamoah

Referee: S Tomlin.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 **BLACKBURN** (1) 3
Joachim 69 — Southgate 32 (og), Ward 62, Dunn 64
37,404

Aston Villa: M Oakes, A Wright, S Grayson, G Southgate, G Barry (sub: A Thompson 78min), S Watson, I Taylor, P Merson, R Scimeca, D Dublin, J Joachim.

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, C Davidson, J McAteer, D Peacock, M Broomes, J Wilcox, D Dunn, M Jansen (sub: D Duff 81), W McKinlay, A Ward, C Sutton.

Referee: K Burge.

CHELSEA (1) 1 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Zola 11 — 34,920

Chelsea: E De Goey, D Petrescu, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux, D Wise, J Morris, R Di Matteo, C Babayaro (sub: B Goldbaek 77min), G Zola, M Forssell (sub: M Nicholls 61).

Booked: Di Matteo.

Southampton: P Jones, S Hiley (sub: W Bridge 61), J Dodd, C Lundekvam, P Colleter, M Oakley, C Marsden, H Kachloul, M Hughes (sub: S Bradley 89), J Beattie, E Ostenstad.

Booked: Oakley, Marsden.

Referee: R Harris.

LEEDS (0) 0 **NEWCASTLE** (0) 1
40,202 — Solano 63

Leeds: N Martyn, I Harte, J Woodgate, L Radebe, D Granville (sub: G Halle 66min), A I Haaland, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, H Kewell, C Wijnhard (sub: W Korsten 66), A Smith.

Booked: Woodgate, Kewell.

Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, S Howey, L Charvet, A Griffin, N Solano, G Speed, D Hamann, S Glass (sub: G Brady 66), T Ketsbaia, L Saha (sub: A Andersson 88).

Booked: Barton, Speed, Charvet, Hamann, Saha.

Referee: U Rennie.

LEICESTER (0) 0 **SHEFFIELD WED** (0) 2
20,113 — Jonk 48, Carbone 78

Leicester City: K Keller, R Ullathorne, S Walsh (sub: F Sinclair 56min), G Taggart (sub: A Gunnlaugsson 56), M Elliott, S Guppy, A Impey (sub: T Zagorakis 76), N Lennon, M Izzet, A Cottee, E Heskey. Booked: Taggart.

Sheffield Wednesday: P Srnicek, P Atherton, D Walker, E Thome, A Hinchcliffe, N Alexandersson, W Jonk, P Rudi, D Sonner, A Booth (sub: R Humphreys 85), B Carbone.

Referee: G Willard.

LIVERPOOL (3) 3 **MIDDLESBROUGH** (0) 1
Owen 9, Heggem 44, Ince 45 — Stamp 86
44,384

Sent off: D Matteo (Liverpool) 64

Liverpool: D James, V Heggem, J Carragher, S Staunton, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye, S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Ince, R Fowler (sub: K Riedle 81min), M Owen (sub: S Gerrard 81).

Booked: Ince.

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, C Cooper, S Vickers, G Festa (sub: P Stamp 62), G Pallister, D Gordon, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, A Townsend (sub: N Maddison 73), B Deane, M Beck.

Booked: Pallister, Mustoe. Referee: P Jones.

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 **MAN UTD** (2) 8
Rogers 6 — Yorke 2, 66; Cole 7, 49; Solskjaer 80, 87, 90, 90
30,025

Nottingham Forest: D Beasant, J Harkes, A Rogers, C Armstrong (sub: H Porfirio 74min), C Palmer, J Hjelde, S Gemmill (sub: J Mattsson 57), A Johnson, S Stone, P van Hooijdonk, J Darcheville (sub: D Freedman 25).

Booked: Porfirio.

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, R Johnsen, J Stam, P Neville, D Beckham, R Keane (sub: O G Solskjaer 71), P Scholes, J Blomqvist (sub: N Butt 75), A Cole, D Yorke (sub: J Curtis 71).

Booked: Keane. Referee: P Alcock.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0 **COVENTRY** (0) 0
34,376

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, S Campbell, L Young, M Taricco (sub: T Sherwood 87min), D Anderton, S Freund, A Nielsen, A Sinton, L Ferdinand, S Iversen (sub: C Armstrong 71).

Booked: Young.

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen (sub: J Aloisi 90), P Williams (sub: M Konjic 53), S Froggatt, P Telfer, T E Soltvedt (sub: P Clement 71), G McAllister, D Huckerby, N Whelan.

Booked: Telfer, McAllister, Breen, Whelan.

Referee: S Lodge.

WEST HAM (0) 0 **ARSENAL** (2) 4
26,042 — Bergkamp 35, Overmars 45, Anelka 83, Parlour 87

West Ham: S Hislop, T Breacker (sub: E Berkovic 46min), J Dicks, R Ferdinand, I Pearce, M Foe, F Lampard, S Minto, T Sinclair, P Kitson, P Di Canio.

Booked: Foe, Dicks.

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, T Adams, N Anelka, D Bergkamp, M Overmars, M Keown, R Parlour, E Petit.

Booked: Winterburn. Referee: J Winter.

Yesterday

DERBY (0) 2 **EVERTON** (1) 1
Burton 51, 85 — Barmby 38
27,603

Derby County: R Hoult, H Carbonari, A Dorigo, I Stimac, S Prior, J Laursen (sub: D Powell 78min), S Eranio, L Carsley, F Baiano (sub: K Harper 76), D Burton, P Wanchope (sub: J Hunt 90).

Booked: Laursen, Powell.

Everton: T Myhre, M Ball, D Unsworth (sub: A Farley 46), D Watson, D Hutchison, O Dacourt, N Barmby, M Ward, F Jeffers, I Bakayoko, R Dunne.

Booked: Dunne, Ward, Dacourt.

Referee: G Poll.

OVERSEAS

[illegible]



	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	25	9	3	1	32	13	5	5	2	27	14	50	+3[illegible]
2 Chelsea	24	8	4	0	18	6	4	6	2	17	13	46	+1[illegible]
3 Arsenal	24	7	5	0	16	4	5	4	3	12	7	45	+17
4 Aston Villa	24	8	2	2	23	15	4	5	3	13	10	43	+11
5 Liverpool	24	7	3	2	31	14	4	2	6	16	15	38	+18
6 Derby	25	5	5	2	13	10	4	5	4	12	12	37	+3
7 Leeds	24	7	3	2	20	6	2	6	4	16	18	36	+12
8 Wimbledon	23	7	4	1	18	11	2	4	5	11	22	35	-4
9 West Ham	24	6	3	3	16	16	3	3	6	9	17	33	-10
10 Middlesbro	24	4	7	1	16	10	3	4	5	17	21	32	+2
11 Tottenham	24	5	5	2	19	16	2	5	5	10	15	31	-2
12 Newcastle	24	6	2	4	16	15	2	5	5	13	17	31	-3
13 Leicester	24	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	4	8	11	30	-4
14 Sheff Wed	24	5	3	4	13	7	3	2	7	14	16	29	+4
15 Blackburn	24	5	3	4	14	12	1	4	7	11	19	25	-6
16 Coventry	24	5	4	3	17	13	1	2	9	6	19	24	-9
17 Everton	24	2	7	3	3	6	3	2	7	11	21	24	-13
18 Southamptn	24	4	2	6	18	21	1	3	8	5	26	20	-24
19 Charlton	23	2	4	5	15	13	1	4	7	11	24	17	-11
20 Nottm F	24	1	6	5	10	21	2	1	9	10	28	16	-29

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (0) 2 **CREWE** (1) 2
Tinkler 72, De Zeeuw 75 — Jack 27, 70
15,377

BRADFORD (1) 2 **WATFORD** (0) 0
McCall 9, Mills 62 — 14,142

BURY (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (0) 3
4,750 — Venus 50 (pen), Mowbray 70, Harewood 76

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 1
Rowett 90 (og) — Furlong 50 (pen)
15,996

GRIMSBY (0) 0 **BOLTON** (0) 1
8,674 — Holdsworth 54

NORWICH (0) 0 **STOCKPORT** (2) 2
14,675 — Angell 9, Wilson 36 (og)

PORT VALE (2) 2 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 0
Foyle 22, 33 — 6,499

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 **TRANMERE** (1) 1
Whittingham 17 — Taylor 44
10,597

SHEFFIELD UTD (2) 3 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
Morris 28, Marcelo 36, 50 — 16,566

SUNDERLAND (2) 2 **SWINDON** (0) 0
Quinn 28, Phillips 30 — 41,304

WOLVES (1) 1 **OXFORD UTD** (1) 1
Keane 36 — Windass 39
20,811

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Bristol City 0 QPR 0.

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 4 **STOKE** (0) 0
S Fletcher 21, 39, Robinson 71, Hayter 76 — 7,637
Sent off: J O'Neill (Bournemouth) 44, G Kavanagh (Stoke) 44

BURNLEY (1) 1 **LUTON** (1) 2
Mellon 29 — Fotiadis 34, Doherty 87
10,285
Sent off: N Moore (Burnley) 52

GILLINGHAM (1) 3 **CHESTERFIELD** (0) 1
Asaba 45, Hessenthaler 60, Southall 67 — Howard 71
6,582

MACCLESFIELD (0) 0 **WREXHAM** (1) 2
2,578 — Connolly 6, C Griffiths 90

MAN CITY (0) 3 **MILLWALL** (0) 0
Dickov 61, Cooke 71, Horlock 75 — 29,862

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 **BLACKPOOL** (0) 0
5,592

OLDHAM (0) 2 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Thom 71, Mardon 81 — 5,220

PRESTON (1) 2 **BRISTOL R** (2) 2
Cartwright 6, Nogan 71 — Cureton 28, Roberts 45
12,170

READING (0) 0 **WALSALL** (1) 1
9,481 — Keates 44

WYCOMBE (1) 1 **FULHAM** (1) 1
Baird 25 — Symons 33
7,538

POSTPONED: Wigan v Notts County (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Home win).

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Colchester 2 York 1.

THIRD DIVISION

BRENTFORD (0) 0 **HULL** (1) 2
5,066 — Alcide 16, D Brown 80

CARLISLE (1) 1 **LEYTON ORIENT** (0) 1
Finney 30 (pen) — Watts 65
2,794

CHESTER (0) 0 **EXETER** (0) 0
2,243

DARLINGTON (0) 5 **MANSFIELD** (1) 1
Liddle 52, Duffield 56, Gabbiadini 58, 63, Costa 90 — Harper 34
2,708
Sent off: I Christie (Mansfield) 51

HARTLEPOOL (2) 2 **HALIFAX** (0) 0
Howard 3, 15 — 2,374

PETERBOROUGH (1) 5 **BARNET** (2) 2
Sawyers 33 (og), Andrews 53, 54, 63, 80 — Charlery 4, King 34
4,668

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 **CARDIFF** (0) 1
Marshall 19 — Legg 63
6,062

ROTHERHAM (2) 2 **SOUTHEND** (0) 2
Ingledow 30, Warne 45 — Rapley 58, 82
3,895
Sent off: N Campbell (Southend) 39

SCARBOROUGH (1) 1 **CAMBRIDGE U** (2) 5
Tate 17 — Taylor 6, Butler 44, 83, Ashbee 48, 54
1,650

SHREWSBURY (2) 3 **ROCHDALE** (1) 2
Steele 38, 43, Brown 72 — Peake 10, Morris 75
2,591

TORQUAY (1) 1 **SCUNTHORPE** (0) 0
Bedeau 39 — 2,071

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Swansea 2 Brighton 2.

SCOTLAND

SPL SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

ABERDEEN (1) 2 **KILMARNOCK** (0) 1
Jess 44, Mayer 47 — Mahood 66
9,299

CELTIC (2) 3 **HEARTS** (0) 0
Larsson 21, 24, 66 (pen) — 59,815

DUNDEE (1) 1 **MOTHERWELL** (0) 0
Tweed 3 — 4,167
Sent off: B Irvine (Dundee) 86

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 1 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Bollan 9 (pen) — 5,771

Yesterday

DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 **RANGERS** (0) 3
Kanchelskis 56, Johansson 59, 90

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (0) 1 **GK MORTON** (0) 0
Craig 74 — 2,222

HAMILTON (0) 0 **AIRDRIE** (2) 2
814 — Johnston 7, Moore 24

HIBERNIAN (2) 2 **STRANRAER** (0) 0
Crawford 31, 35 — 8,649

ST MIRREN (1) 3 **RAITH** (1) 1
McLaughlin 17, McGarry 50, Yardley 61 — Andrews 23
1,648

POSTPONED: Clydebank v Falkirk (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: Away win).

SECOND DIVISION

ARBROATH (0) 1 **ALLOA** (2) 2
C McGlashan 76 — McKechnie 31, McAneny 38
605

CLYDE (0) 0 **LIVINGSTON** (1) 3
1,366 — Robertson 43, King 65, McPhee 84
Sent off: D Murray (Clyde) 55

EAST FIFE (1) 1 **PARTICK** (0) 0
Moffat 39 — 1,130

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 0 **FORFAR** (2) 3
968 — Cargill 33, 79, McIlravey 39

STIRLING (0) 1 **INVERNESS C** (3) 5
Wood 79 — Sheerin 10 (pen), McCulloch 15, Teasdale 35, Glancy 46, 57
890

THIRD DIVISION

[illegible]

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

[illegible]

GOALSCORERS

[illegible]



Deon Burton, of Derby, turns away to celebrate after scoring one of his two goals against Everton yesterday. Derby won the match 2-1 after going behind to a goal by Nick Barmby. Match report, page 28. Photograph: *Hugh Routledge*

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop Auckland 1 Bamber Bridge 1; Blyth Spartans 0 Accrington Stanley 1; Gateshead 0 Hyde 3; [illegible]

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Basingstoke 1 Boreham Wood 1; Bromley 0 Dulwich 3; Gravesend 3 Carshalton 1; Hampton 0 Billericay 0; Purfleet [illegible]

FA UMBRO TROPHY

FOURTH ROUND: Aldershot 1 Altrincham 2; Ashton United 2 St Alban's 2; Aylesbury 0 Whitby 1; Boston 2 Redditch 0; Cheltenham 0 [illegible]

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Alleyn Old Boys 5 Kew Association 2; Civil Service 2 Alexandra Park 5; Crouch End Vampires 1 Barclays Bank 2; Merton 0 Broomfield 1; Midland Bank 0 Old Parkonians 0; Nat West Bank 3 Lloyds Bank 2; Old Latymerians 0 [illegible]

DR MARTENS

[illegible]

NATIONAL

[illegible]

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were eight score draws: [illegible] Palace v Birmingham; Portsmouth v Tranmere; Wolverhampton [illegible] Rovers; Wycombe v Fulham; Plymouth v Cardiff; Rotherham [illegible] and five score draws. This confirmed pay out for: Eight score [illegible] 11 winners each £8,511.60. Six score draws: 297 winners each [illegible] each £5.

POOLS CHECK

[illegible]

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Sunderland	30	12	2	1	35	7	6	7	2	27	14	63	(62)
2 Bradford	30	11	2	2	36	14	6	3	6	19	18	56	(55)
3 Bolton	29	9	4	2	31	14	6	6	2	23	19	55	(54)
4 Ipswich	30	9	1	5	19	8	7	5	3	22	11	54	(41)
5 Birmingham	30	8	5	2	21	11	7	3	5	25	17	53	(46)
6 Watford	31	8	6	2	22	15	5	4	6	24	26	49	(46)
7 Grimsby	30	9	4	2	22	10	5	2	8	12	21	48	(34)
8 West Brom	31	9	1	5	31	21	4	6	6	22	27	46	(53)
9 Wolves	30	7	7	1	21	12	5	2	8	19	18	45	(40)
10 Sheff Utd	30	8	3	4	26	22	4	5	6	21	25	44	(47)
11 Huddersfld	30	9	5	1	29	16	3	2	10	13	33	43	(42)
12 Norwich	29	6	6	2	24	17	5	3	7	19	24	42	(43)
13 Barnsley	30	5	6	4	25	19	4	5	6	14	19	38	(39)
14 C Palace	30	7	7	1	31	18	2	2	11	11	34	36	(42)
15 Swindon	30	6	6	3	28	23	3	2	10	12	25	35	(40)
16 Tranmere	30	4	5	6	19	20	3	9	3	19	22	35	(38)
17 Stockport	30	4	5	6	18	17	3	7	5	18	22	33	(36)
18 QPR	30	5	6	4	18	14	3	3	9	14	25	33	(32)
19 Portsmouth	30	6	4	5	22	17	1	6	8	15	29	31	(37)
20 Bury	30	7	4	4	19	17	0	6	9	8	25	31	(27)
21 Oxford Utd	30	5	4	6	20	23	2	4	9	11	29	29	(31)
22 Port Vale	30	6	1	8	14	28	2	3	10	17	30	28	(31)
23 Bristol City	30	4	7	4	24	27	1	5	9	16	30	27	(40)
24 Crewe	30	4	3	8	20	30	1	4	10	14	32	22	(34)

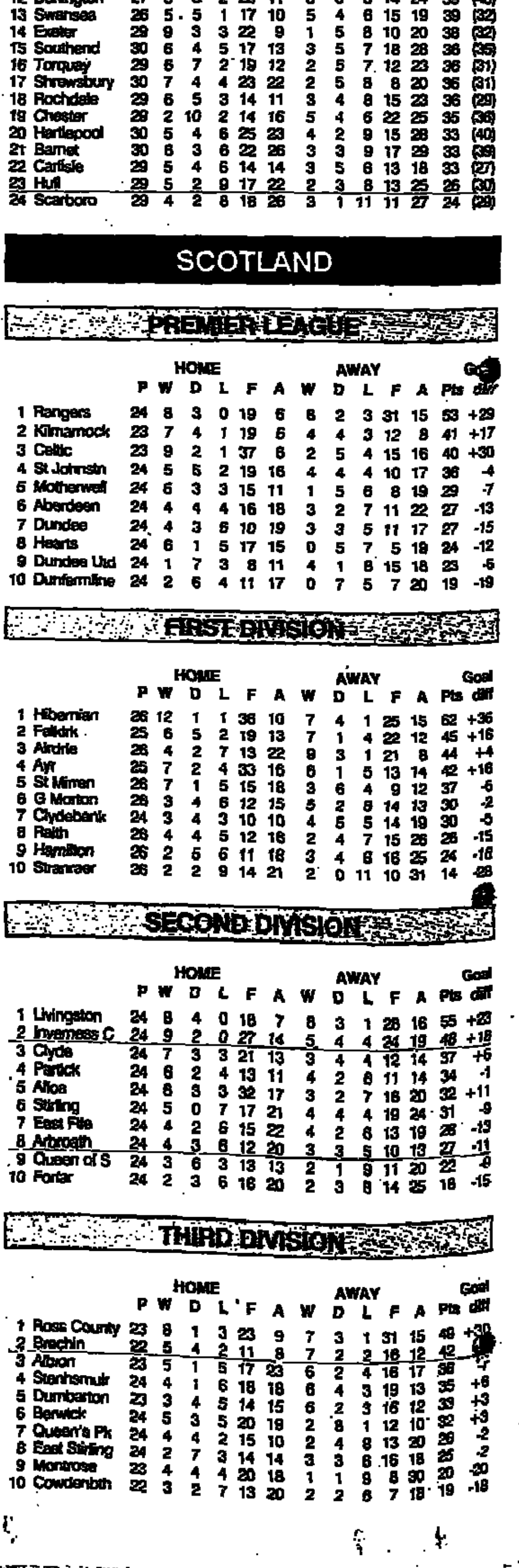
SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Fulham	28	11	2	1	27	8	7	3	4	14	13	59	(4[illegible])
2 Preston	29	7	4	3	30	16	9	4	2	23	13	56	(53)
3 Walsall	29	9	4	3	24	16	7	2	4	16	16	54	(40)
4 Bournemth	27	10	3	0	30	7	4	4	6	17	20	49	(47)
5 Gillingham	28	11	3	2	31	11	1	9	2	14	15	48	(45)
6 Stoke	28	8	3	3	21	11	7	0	7	16	17	48	(37)
7 Man City	29	7	5	2	21	9	5	6	4	15	14	47	(36)
8 Chesterfld	29	11	1	3	25	10	2	5	7	8	16	45	(33)
9 Millwall	30	5	7	3	21	16	6	3	6	13	19	43	(34)
10 Wigan	27	6	3	3	18	7	5	4	6	20	20	40	(38)
11 Reading	28	6	6	4	21	19	4	3	5	12	19	39	(33)
12 Luton	27	6	3	3	16	12	4	5	6	21	24	38	(37)
13 Blackpool	29	5	6	3	18	14	4	5	6	13	19	38	(31)
14 York	30	4	7	4	20	19	5	1	9	18	30	35	(38)
15 Bristol R	27	5	6	3	23	18	2	6	5	16	14	33	(39)
16 Burnley	30	5	5	5	14	16	3	4	8	21	33	33	(35)
17 Oldham	29	5	2	7	16	19	4	4	7	14	20	33	(30)
18 Colchester	29	4	5	5	13	20	3	6	6	18	23	32	(31)
19 Wrexham	28	6	3	6	15	19	2	4	7	12	24	31	(27)
20 Northmptn	28	2	8	2	12	12	3	3	10	12	21	26	(24)
21 Notts Co	26	4	3	6	17	18	2	4	7	10	20	25	(27)
22 Lincoln City	28	5	3	6	18	20	1	3	10	9	27	24	(27)
23 Wycombe	29	5	3	8	19	17	0	6	7	7	21	24	(26)
24 Macclesfld	28	2	4	7	9	16	2	5	8	11	21	21	(20)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Cardiff	29	12	1	3	29	12	5	4	4	16	14	58	(45)
2 Camb Utd	28	9	2	3	23	16	7	3	4	26	16	53	(49)
3 Scunthorpe	28	10	1	3	30	21	5	2	7	20	20	48	(50)
4 Mansfield	29	10	1	3	25	12	4	4	7	20	30	47	(45)
5 Rotherham	29	7	5	3	29	17	6	2	6	28	25	46	(57)
6 Brentford	28	11	1	2	27	12	4	0	10	17	30	46	(44)
7 Brighton	30	7	1	8	21	21	7	3	6	20	19	46	(41)
8 Peterboro	30	8	2	8	30	24	5	3	6	20	17	44	(50)
9 Halifax	29	6	7	2	25	19	5	3	6	15	14	43	(40)
10 L Orient	28	7	4	3	19	18	3	7	4	18	18	41	(37)
11 Plymouth	28	7	3	3	19	10	4	4	7	14	16	40	(33)
12 Darlington	27	8	3	2	29	11	3	3	8	14	24	39	(43)
13 Swansea	26	5	5	1	17	10	5	4	6	15	19	39	(32)
14 Exeter	29	9	3	3	22	9	1	5	8	10	20	38	(32)
15 Southend	30	6	4	5	17	13	3	5	7	18	28	36	(35)
16 Torquay	29	6	7	2	19	12	2	5	7	12	23	36	(31)
17 Shrewsbury	30	7	4	4	23	22	2	5	8	8	20	36	(31)
18 Rochdale	29	6	5	3	14	11	3	4	8	15	23	36	(29)
19 Chester	29	2	10	2	14	16	5	4	6	22	25	35	(36)
20 Hartlepool	30	5	4	6	25	23	4	2	9	15	28	33	(40)
21 Barnet	30	6	3	6	22	26	3	3	9	17	29	33	(39)
22 Carlisle	29	5	4	6	14	14	3	5	6	13	18	33	(27)
23 Hull	29	5	2	9	17	22	2	3	8	13	25	26	(30)
24 Scarboro	29	4	2	8	18	26	3	1	11	11	27	24	(29)

SCOTLAND



PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Rangers	24	8	3	0	19	6	8	2	3	31	15	53	+29
2 Kilmarnock	23	7	4	1	19	6	4	4	3	12	8	41	+17
3 Celtic	23	9	2	1	37	6	2	5	4	15	16	40	+30
4 St Johnstn	24	5	5	2	19	16	4	4	4	10	17	36	-4
5 Motherwell	24	6	3	3	15	11	1	5	6	8	19	29	-7
6 Aberdeen	24	4	4	4	16	18	3	2	7	11	22	27	-13
7 Dundee	24	4	3	6	10	19	3	3	5	11	17	27	-15
8 Hearts	24	6	1	5	17	15	0	5	7	5	19	24	-12
9 Dundee Utd	24	1	7	3	8	11	4	1	8	15	18	23	-6
10 Dunfermline	24	2	6	4	11	17	0	7	5	7	20	19	-19

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Hibernian	26	12	1	1	36	10	7	4	1	25	15	62	+36
2 Falkirk	25	6	5	2	19	13	7	1	4	22	12	45	+16
3 Airdrie	26	4	2	7	13	22	9	3	1	21	8	44	+4
4 Ayr	25	7	2	4	33	16	6	1	5	13	14	42	+16
5 St Mirren	26	7	1	5	15	18	3	6	4	9	12	37	-6
6 G Morton	26	3	4	6	12	15	5	2	8	14	13	30	-2
7 Clydebank	24	3	4	3	10	10	4	5	5	14	19	30	-5
8 Raith	26	4	4	5	12	16	2	4	7	15	26	26	-15
9 Hamilton	26	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	6	16	25	24	-16
10 Stranraer	26	2	2	9	14	21	2	0	11	10	31	14	-28

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Livingston	24	8	4	0	18	7	8	3	1	28	16	55	+23
2 Inverness C	24	9	2	0	27	14	5	4	4	24	19	48	+18
3 Clyde	24	7	3	3	21	13	3	4	4	12	14	37	+6
4 Partick	24	6	2	4	13	11	4	2	6	11	14	34	-1
5 Alloa	24	6	3	3	32	17	3	2	7	16	20	32	+11
6 Stirling	24	5	0	7	17	21	4	4	4	19	24	31	-9
7 East Fife	24	4	2	6	15	22	4	2	6	13	19	28	-13
8 Arbroath	24	4	3	6	12	20	3	3	5	10	13	27	-11
9 Queen of S	24	3	6	3	13	13	2	1	9	11	20	22	-9
10 Forfar	24	2	3	6	16	20	2	3	8	14	25	18	-15

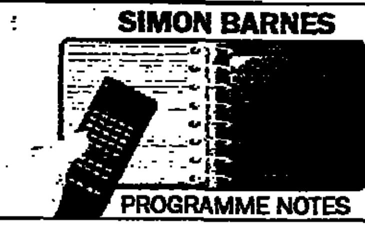
THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ross County	23	8	1	3	23	9	7	3	1	31	15	49	+30
2 Brechin	22	5	4	2	11	8	7	2	2	18	12	42	[illegible]
3 Albion	23	5	1	5	17	23	6	2	4	16	17	36	-7
4 Stenhsmuir	24	4	1	6	18	18	6	4	3	19	13	35	+6
5 Dumbarton	23	3	4	5	14	15	6	2	3	16	12	33	+3
6 Berwick	24	5	3	5	20	19	2	8	1	12	10	32	+3
7 Queen's Pk	24	4	4	2	15	10	2	4	8	13	20	26	-2
8 East Stirling	24	2	7	3	14	14	3	3	6	16	18	25	-2
9 Montrose	23	4	4	4	20	18	1	1	9	8	30	20	-20
10 Cowdenbth	22	3	2	7	13	20	2	2	6	7	18	19	-18



Blue canvas from Benny Hill school of painting





The ancient Britons used to go into battle wearing nothing but blue paint, or woad. And so it was something of a return to our roots when the players in the Ireland-France rugby union match tried the same tactic on Saturday.

Well, they kept their *shirts* and shorts on, but they were all painted deep blue. It was one of the most bizarre sporting sights I have seen. Sport is an absurd pastime, one that forever trembles on the edge of farce. *This* match came close to falling over the edge and it is a tribute to a wonderfully dramatic game that it never quite happened.

Why don't sporting people ring me up before they make decisions? I make no claims to exceptional percipience, but I can see *the obvious. And it* strikes me as reasonably obvious that if you leave a load of wet paint on the ground and then get 30 fellows to roll about in it, they are going to get paint all over them.

The paint is there on the pitch to sell something. It always is. A good idea: all it does is spoil the actual sport and make the players look like eejits. But who cares about the players, or the audience? It is surely the sponsors that matter: them and nobody else.

It was wonderfully and absurdly distracting. Every time play went towards the blue bit, you tensed up: are they going to fall over and roll about in it again? Soon the players had blue faces, blue *arms, blue hair, blue* shorts, blue jerseys. They sought to rub blue paint from their eyes with painty blue fingers.

Trainers had to run on to the pitch with towels to wipe off the blue. You wondered if the game would have to be stopped because all of the players had become indistinguishably blue. The more it rained, the paintier it got.

And in the end, it was the rain that came to the rescue, falling so tumultuously that the players were washed in a few minutes from deepest Oxford to palest Cambridge. And we were free to bring our straying minds and giggling *thoughts back to the action.*

But really, it was an instructive little episode in the story of sport and sports sponsorship. Saturday afternoon brought us an unholy alliance of greed and idiocy, with the actual sport taking second place in the calculations.

When that happens, the audience — watching for the sake of the sport, remember — takes against the interfering *sponsor in a big way.*

Sporting sponsors always remind me of the Benny Hill character, Fred Scuttle. Fred was always sidling into shot, trying to get on camera, no *matter how little the story* demanded his presence. The episode of the woad was pure Fred Scuttle; it made sport look silly and the sponsor contemptible. I have decided, however, to keep quiet about the *name of the sponsor and save* them from further ridicule. I will continue to do this so long as Lloyds TSB let me off the repayments on my present loan. Is that a deal, lads?

As the afternoon wore on and the paint wore off, a breathtaking game emerged, as if an expert picture-cleaner had been called in to reveal the painter's original intention, getting rid of the self-assertive retouchings of interfering daubers.

But really, why don't these *sports people ring me up more* often? No, Glenn, Michael Owen is a natural goalscorer, and while we're not on the subject, I'd keep your views on reincarnation to yourself. Alec, being captain and wicket-*keeper and leading batsman is* a bit too much, you will exhaust yourself without winning anything. And look here, you Irish chaps: an international rugby team does rather need a proper goalkicker.

But Ireland picked poor David Humphreys, who is not even a first-choice kicker for his club. Folly upon folly: television, sometimes more than live sport, can bring us that sense of dreadful inevitability. Every nuance of the Humphreys body language told us *he was going to miss.* And that was just his first pot at goal: by the time of the last, fateful hoof, it was all too much.

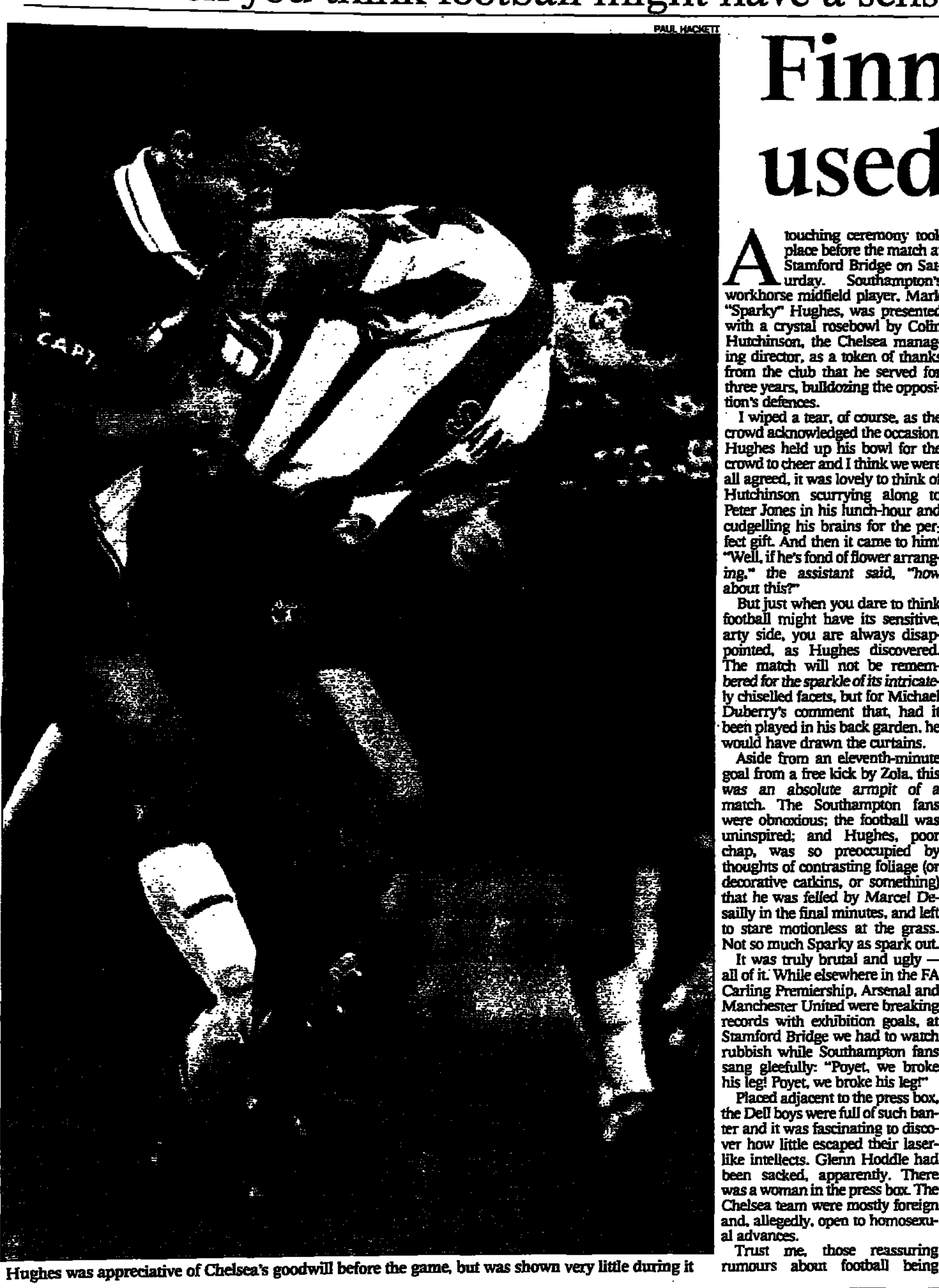
Nations always love to live up to the cliché images of themselves, and Ireland did this *quite comprehensively. They* outplayed and outfought the French and still managed to *lose.* Even when they had thrown the game away, they had a chance to win it back with a late penalty.

And with dreadful inevitability, Humphreys whacked it wide. A splendid afternoon continued with the Scotland-Wales match: the latest Welsh revival lasted this time for 11 seconds: the time it took Scotland to sell them one of the oldest and cheapest plays in the rugby union playbook.

Great stuff. How would the Five Nations Championship have coped without England? England were not in action and the clear answer was: Jolly Well. A pity it can't cope *without sponsors.*

'Just when you think football might have a sensitive, arty side, you are disappointed'

PAUL HACKETT



Hughes was appreciative of Chelsea's goodwill before the game, but was shown very little during it

Finns ain't what they used to be at Chelsea



A touching ceremony took place before the match at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. Southampton's workhorse midfield player, Mark "Sparky" Hughes, was presented with a crystal rosebowl by Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, as a token of thanks from the club that he served for three years, bulldozing the opposition's defences.

I wiped a tear, of course, as the crowd acknowledged the occasion. Hughes held up his bowl for the crowd to cheer and I think we were all agreed, it was lovely to think of Hutchinson scurrying along to Peter Jones in his lunch-hour and cudgelling his brains for the perfect gift. And then it came to him! "Well, if he's fond of flower arranging," the *assistant said, "how* about this?"

But just when you dare to think football might have its sensitive, arty side, you are always disappointed, as Hughes discovered. The match will not be remem*bered for the sparkle of its intricate*ly chiselled facets, but for Michael Duberry's comment that, had it been played in his back garden, he would have drawn the curtains.

Aside from an eleventh-minute goal from a free kick by Zola, this *was an absolute armpit of a* match. The Southampton fans were obnoxious; the football was uninspired; and Hughes, poor chap, was so preoccupied by thoughts of contrasting foliage (or decorative catkins, or something) that he was *felled by Marcel* Desailly in the final minutes, and left to stare motionless at the grass. Not so much Sparky as spark out.

It was truly brutal and ugly — all of it. While elsewhere in the FA Carling Premiership, Arsenal and Manchester United were breaking records with exhibition goals, at Stamford Bridge we had to watch rubbish while Southampton fans sang gleefully: "Poyet, we broke his leg! Poyet, we broke his leg!"

Placed adjacent to the press box, the Dell boys were full of such banter and it was fascinating to discover how little escaped their laser-like intellects. Glenn Hoddle had been sacked, apparently. There was a woman in the press box. The Chelsea team were mostly foreign and, allegedly, open to homosexual advances.

Trust me, those reassuring rumours about football being middle-class all of a sudden have been cruelly exaggerated. However, while we wait for the yobs to *take up tiddlywinks, I do have* a modest proposal for something that can be done. The stewards at Stamford Bridge can be taken to the car park and, after a brief ceremony in which they hang their heads and remove their arm*bands, they can be shot.*

I had come to Chelsea with other things in mind: to witness the crystal gleam of the 17-year-old Finn, Mikael Forssell, who worked such wonders in midweek against Oxford United by the style of his, er, *finishing.* What a treat for anyone even halfway tolerant of puns. Just my luck, then, that on Saturday this was a finishing Finn who didn't quite get started.

To be fair, Dennis Wise had advised us in his programme note not to expect a repeat performance from young Mikael — "He's only a kid living in a foreign country" — but it was an unreasonable request. Doesn't football generally encourage shallow, callous response? "A new Michael Owen?" we say. "Show me, I can't see one. Oh hang on, perhaps he's the new *David* Owen. Or the new *Wilfred* Owen. Ha, ha, ha." Anyway, when Forssell was substituted for Mark Nicholls after an hour, the game immediately got more interesting. Which is just the way it goes, I suppose, when you are a genuine *superstar in the making.*

Afterwards, it was possible to see a pattern and purpose in the game. This was small consolation, but better than none. Southampton had staunchly "taken the game to Chelsea", while Chelsea had un*characteristically "dug in".* Normally, Chelsea wouldn't get their hands dirty trying to win such a dreadful game; they would say "Oh fiddle-de-dee", and go shopping. But having briefly topped the Premiership table, they have prag*matically changed their priorities.*

Not quite Arsenal in disguise, they were not very pretty and they didn't care. True, Ed De Goey made his usual heart-stopping dashes from goal, but I have finally got the hang of these now and *begin to see their value to the score*line. "Off you go, Ed," I now cry, instead of "Eek". "That's right! That'll teach them to come into your half." And it works out very well. They tie him to his goalposts with elastic, you know. Two loops around the waist. This startled giraffe of a goalkeeper can then run 30 yards to the farthest stretch of the elastic, leap to punch the ball clear and be yanked back to his proper position. It's a bit like *Gladiators,* only without the paddles or the foam rubber.

Meanwhile, again in retrospect, Southampton's version of "taking the game to the opposition" meant mainly hard work and intimidation, and it wasn't bad at all. Hassan Kachloul, their new Moroccan player, is still giving them good value; and for reasons of solid effort, *the whole team impressed in a* way that Chelsea's individuals failed to do. I never forgot that Egil Ostenstad was playing, for example, whereas I frequently had to pinch myself to remember Roberto Di Matteo was on the park. Which *was odd because he was wearing* those over-the-knee socks of his, which generally — whisper it — thrill me to my very core.

So it was a draw-the-curtains match, truly. When *they showed the highlights* on *Match of the Day,* without hesitation I hid behind the sofa. It wasn't a question of commitment or "heart", simply a question of entertainment. When a man came into the press box and *held up a note of the attendance fig*ure (34,920), it was the highlight of the afternoon. By then we had stopped wanting to hear about the scoreline at Nottingham Forest or Upton Park. We made a note and gave a grateful thumbs-up. 34,920. Marvellous.

I expect it's only me that is worried about the rosebowl. But since Hughes was carried off unconscious from the pitch, you can't help wondering, did he remember to take it home? Did anyone? Much as one hates to accuse Chelsea of money-grubbing, it does look likely that they gave Hughes the rosebowl and then deliberately knocked him out so they could take it back on Monday.

If anyone sees Colin Hutchinson approaching customer services in Peter Jones with a big carrier-bag this week, perhaps they would write to let us know.

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Forssell, Chelsea's young Finn, lost his midweek sparkle

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

RFU and the Five Nations

From Mr Richard Prescott

Sir, Gerald Davies is wrong to say (February 5) that the Rugby Football Union want to dispense with the Five Nations *Championship. On the contra*ry we have gone on record many times in recent weeks to reiterate our commitment to the championship, and welcome the overdue addition of Italy to it. Our concerns were related to the Accord agreement signed in 1996, which we believe needs to be updated to acknowledge the addition of Italy. There are also a number of other issues we want clarified. *An opportunity to discuss* these will now take place with the Five Nations in the forthcoming weeks.

The television contract the RFU signed with Sky provided the game in England with vital revenue for all *levels* of the sport. I am sure Mr Davies would not begrudge the distribution of funds to junior clubs and youth development as a result of this deal

As far as Europe is concerned the RFU want the clubs back in Europe and we will be sitting down with them very shortly to discuss their future interest in the competition.

Finally, the Anglo-Welsh competition was *streamlined* to the two unions for very straightforward reasons. Firstly, Ireland could not commit players into provincial sides in a British league for a whole season. Scotland are undergoing a review of their structure, which we understand will not be completed until May or June this year but the door remains open for their involvement in future seasons.

The proposal for five Welsh clubs covered the vast majority of their international players and the suggested structure was for one season with *the potential* for expansion in the following years. Although the RFU and English first division clubs are happy to discuss any further points on an Anglo-Welsh league with the WRU, we are now in discussions with the clubs *to plan for* next season's Allied Dunbar Premiership.

RICHARD PRESCOTT,
Director of Communications,
RFU,
Rugby House,
Rugby Road,
Twickenham TW1 1DS.

Carling's rating

From Ms Susie Pover

Sir, "Carling voted best of British" (*Loose Talk, January 28*). Carling? Will Carling? *That* Carling? How can anyone seriously describe Carling as the best British player of the last 25 years?

Assuming the Lloyds TSB survey was completed in 1998, that means it looked at the best British player since 1973. Let's go back to the beginning: Well, for a start there is your colleague, the brilliant Gerald Davies, JPR and Gareth Edwards may not be eligible, but there's Phil Bennett, and, more recently, what about Jonathan Davies, Ieuan Evans, Robert Howley and *that's before I even look at the* forwards . . . Ah, I think I see the problem — they are all, er, Welsh. Perhaps by "British" is meant "*English*".

I admit my partiality. I have been a Wales supporter for more than 30 years. But I could probably list another ten players — Irish and Scots — ahead of Carling. And if it must be an English player, again there are many who would qualify ahead of him. What about, for example, someone who has more grace and talent — Jeremy Guscott.

Seriously, if you were to compile your 1973-1998 composite Lions team, would Carling even make it to the bench?

Yours sincerely
SUSIE POVER
24 Claygate Road
London W13 9XG

Barmy Army alliance with cricket board

From Mr Richard Peel

Sir, Michael Henderson was wrong to state that the England and Wales Cricket Board has "announced it would form a commercial alliance" with the Barmy Army (January 30).

In response to a question from the press, we simply thanked the Barmy Army for their support in Australia and stated that we would be prepared to listen to any commercial proposal they wished to put forward.

To date, they have not made contact with us and it is misleading to suggest that we have entered into a business relationship.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD PEEL,
Director of Corporate Affairs, ECB,
Lord's Cricket Ground, NW8 8QZ.

From Mr Kelvin Richardson

Sir, For the information of Michael Henderson, cricket supporters pay with their hard-earned money to follow the (mis)fortunes of the national cricket team, unlike journalists and others. The Barmy Army is liked by both the press and the locals in every country it visits, as well as by the English team members themselves.

Since Mr Henderson had the misfortune to be born in the 20th century and not the 18th, I do at least possess some good news for him — he does not have to "simply grin and bear" the Barmy Army, he can always change to a more suitable profession. I would respectfully suggest the following possibilities: librarian, market gardener, editor for *Anglers' Weekly*, referee for the English Bowls Association.

Yours faithfully,
K. A. RICHARDSON,
Candletree Cottage,
Hervines Road,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5HS.

Forerunners of disc golf

From Mr George Ince

Sir, Disc golf (Report, February 4) must be an American adaptation of plate golf. Some 50 years ago we played a form of golf game at scout camp, using enamel eating plates to aim at a series of targets. The action needed to propel the plates was similar to that needed for a Frisbee." The flight of the plate was often spectacular, particularly when the dispatch point was the top of a hill and the target at the bottom.

The first target was always the trunk of a nominated tree, but from then on the winner of each "hole" set the target and the distance for the next hole. Gateposts, holes in walls, fence posts, free-standing boulders all served as targets — much more variety than the standard targets of disc golf.

The great art was to hit the target softly, so that no great damage was done to the plate to destroy its balance, or indeed to *make it* unfit to eat from! Is this yet another game invented in Britain in which we no longer lead the world?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE INCE,
18 Pine Court, Doune,
Perthshire FK16 6JE.

From Mr Richard Hildesley

Sir, I was fascinated to read the description of disc golf. My late uncle, John Forrest, an England rugby international in the 1930s, devised a similar sport in the early Fifties, while we were camping on a farm in central Wales. Pre-Frisbee, the balls were aluminium plates, the greens were blankets and groundsheets strategically dotted round the field. Simple, but the source of much pleasure, as were many of the games he dreamt up to amuse a whole generation of us, who *worshipped this particular* Pied Piper.

Yours nostalgically,
RICHARD J. HILDESLEY,
Garden Cottage, Woodside,
Windsor Forest,
Berkshire SL4 2DP.

Hoddle's exit

From Mr Andrew Wren

Sir, If you "score" England games by giving three points for a win and one for a draw, then you take the total points scored and divide by the number of games, you arrive at an average score which is a simple measurement of the England manager's success. On this basis, England scored better under Glenn Hoddle than under any of his four predecessors and, by this measurement alone, was the best manager England has had for at least 22 years.

Remind me again, why was he hounded out of office?

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW D WREN,
Felden Charm,
Felden, Herts HP3 0BQ.

From Mr Graham Evans

Sir, As a Welshman, I find the sudden departure of Glenn Hoddle instructive. Could you now please ask your football *correspondent to interview* Bobby Gould and encourage *him* to say something stupid?

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM EVANS,
31 Bay View Terrace,
Brynmill, Swansea SA1 4LT.





Tomorrow
After the success of 1998, how will Mika Hakkinen, above, fare this season? **Kevin Eason** reports from Barcelona on the launch of McLaren's new Formula One car.

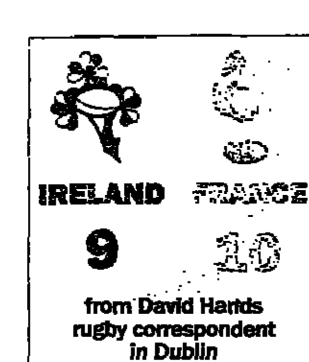
Wednesday
World champions France present the toughest possible test as Howard Wilkinson takes charge of England for the first time. **Oliver Holt** looks forward to the match at Wembley.

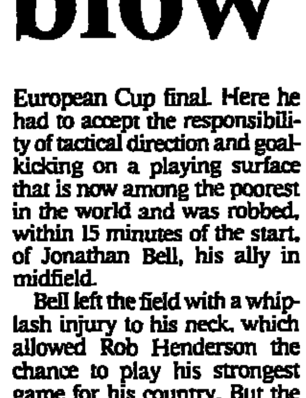
Thursday
Will it be first blood to England or Australia in the final of the triangular one-day cricket tournament ?

Football Saturday
The FA Cup fifth round, tie by tie, including Fulham's prospects of upsetting Manchester United.

Five Nations Championship: France make unconvincing start to defence of their title

Gallant Ireland must regroup after cruel blow





from David Hands
rugby correspondent
in Dublin

NOW we will see if Ireland's management can earn their corn. Within the next fortnight, they must find a way to restore life to a team shattered beyond belief by defeat in the opening match of the Five Nations Championship at Lansdowne Road on Saturday and, particularly, revive the morale of David Humphreys, their talented fly half.

Donal Lenihan and Warren Gatland must convince their squad that the Irish bubble has not burst, that defeat by a point does not undo so much good work nor unhinge the confidence that has welled up on the back of Ulster's drive to the European Cup.

That their next game in the Lloyds TSB championship is against dejected Wales, at Wembley on February 20, is a start, since they are the only senior rugby-playing country whom Ireland have beaten in the past four years.

The home dressing-room was like a graveyard as the French, crowing like their own cockerels, made off with the spoils that fell into their hands only in the last minute of proper time. Yet their gesticulations also told of an Irish side whose discipline in the second half, faced with lashing wind and rain and a mounting French forward effort superbly led by Thomas Lievremont, let them down.

Lenihan will direct much of his criticism at Peter Clohessy and Trevor Brennan, the replacement for Victor Costello, who has damaged ribs; their lack of control at vital moments gave France a chink of light. That Ireland may point at Philippe Benetton, whose punch on a grounded Keith Wood went not only unpunished but remarkably unrecognised by the match officials who selected Philippe Bernat-Salles as the culprit, is neither here nor there. Wood is no angel and opponents had suffered from his attentions earlier in the game.

The management will also gnaw at the goalkicking of Humphreys, who missed four attempts, the last of which would have won the match. With two minutes of injury time played, Humphreys lined up a penalty across the wind, then watched in horror as a kick that started centrally was blown to the right of the posts.

It was always going to be a difficult week for Humphreys, have to come down from the emotional rollercoaster of the European Cup final. Here he had to accept the responsibility of tactical direction and goalkicking on a playing surface that is now among the poorest in the world and was robbed, within 15 minutes of the start, of Jonathan Bell, his ally in midfield.

Bell left the field with a whiplash injury to his neck, which allowed Rob Henderson the chance to play his strongest game for his country. But the understanding between Humphreys, Bell and the absent openside flanker, Andy Ward, has been a critical element of Ulster's success and Ireland were cruelly denied it.

In reserve, Ireland have Eric Elwood and Simon Mason as potential points-gatherers; they also have Niall Woods who has been on fire for London Irish. Were Woods given the chance to do for Ireland what Kenny Logan has done for Scotland, that would leave Humphreys to concentrate on the role of playmaker.

Elsewhere, Ireland achieved everything that could have been expected of them. Eric Miller enjoyed a mighty return to the international arena, yet the try they needed refused to come. Whatever frailties French clubs may have shown in Europe this season, there was none in their defence of the championship. Dion O'Cuinneagain came closest to the line from a tap to the front of the lineout, but Bernat-Salles and an utterly committed Richard Dourthe heaved him into the corner.

Ireland's front row had the ascendancy in the scrums, France being penalised three times for lowering and as good a prop as Christian Califano twisting himself inside out against Paul Wallace.

Califano did not reappear in the second half. Instead, Sylvain Marconnet emerged and instantly added as much to the loose play as Clohessy, his opposite number, could not. Had Humphreys landed a 30-metre kick just before the interval, Ireland would have carried a nine-point lead into the second half, but the final half-hour saw France gain territorial domination.

When Humphreys had a kick charged down, the French achieved the lineout from which a tapped penalty gave Dourthe possession and the centre was rolled relentlessly over the line by his pack. Even so, the French runners could never find space and the box-kicking of Conor McGuinness helped to fend them off.

With two minutes remaining, a stupidly sustained tackle by Brennan on Philippe Carbonneau sounded the alarm. Thomas Castaignède, a less than commanding figure on the day, was not far wide with a penalty from 53 metres but was overjoyed to receive a second chance from 27 metres when Wallace was offside at a ruck. The little blond kicked the goal nervelessly, but Ireland responded with a wonderfully direct charge. The penalty was given against Franck Tournaire for preventing quick release but, for Humphreys, the good fortune that has attended so much of his season had run out.

Simon Barnes, page 33

MATCH DETAILS

SCORERS: Ireland: Penalty goals: Humphreys 3 (25, 36, 47). **France: Try:** Dourthe (62). **Conversion:** Castaignède. **Penalty goal:** Castaignède (80).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Ireland first): 3-0, 6-0 (half-time), 9-0, 9-7, 9-10
IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish); **J P Bishop** (London Irish), **K M Maggs** (Bath), **J C Bell** (Dungannon; rep: **R A J Henderson**, Wasps, 15min), **G Dempsey** (Terenure College), **D G Humphreys** (Dungannon), **C D McGuinness** (St Mary's College), **P M Clohessy** (Young Munster; rep: **J P Fitzpatrick** (Dungannon, 63), **K G M Wood** (Harlequins), **P S Wallace** (Saracens; rep: **Fitzpatrick**, 45-47), **P S Johns** (Saracens, captain), **J W Davidson** (Castres), **E R P Miller** (Terenure College), **D O'Cuinneagain** (Sale), **V C P Costello** (St Mary's College; rep: **T Brennan**, St Mary's College, 51)
FRANCE: E Ntamack (Toulouse), **P Bernat-Salles** (Biarritz), **R Dourthe** (Stade Français), **F Comba** (Stade Français), **T Lombard** (Stade Français; rep. **A Gomes**, Stade Français, 80); **T Castaignède** (Castres), **P Carbonneau** (Brive), **C Califano** (Toulouse; rep: **S Marconnet**, Stade Français, 40), **R Ibanez** (Perpignan, captain), **F Tournaire** (Toulouse), **O Brouzet** (Bègles-Bordeaux), **F Pelous** (Toulouse, rep: **T Cleda**, Pau, 69), **P Benetton** (Agen), **O Magne** (Brive), **T Lievremont** (Perpignan)
Referee: P Marshall (Australia).


An exhausted McGuinness, the Ireland scrum half, sinks to the ground at the final whistle at Lansdowne Road

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	1	0	0	33	20	2
France	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0	1	9	10	0
Wales	1	0	0	1	20	33	0

FIXTURES

Feb 20: England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland, Wembley. **Mar 6:** Ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris. **Mar 20:** England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh. **Apr 10:** France v Scotland, Paris. **Apr 11:** Wales v England, Wembley.

Injuries dampen Scotland triumph

By Mark Souster

SERIOUS injury to two players took the shine off the Scottish celebrations after their morale-boosting victory over Wales at Murrayfield.

Duncan Hodge, the Scotland fly half, almost certainly will miss the remainder of the Five Nations Championship and probably the rest of the season after breaking a bone in his left fibula: Doddie Weir, Scotland's most experienced player and a crucial figure in the lineout, is doubtful for the the Calcutta Cup game at Twickenham a week on Saturday after severely spraining his right ankle just before half-time.

Arthur Hastie, the Scotland team manager, said: "Duncan will be assessed again in the next fortnight: but his chances of playing in the remainder of the championship must be regarded as doubtful."

Other casualties included Martin Leslie, who needed five stitches in a cheek wound, Alan Tait (badly cut finger) and Kenny Logan, who strained a knee and was unfit to play for Wasps yesterday against Bath. However, they are all expected to play at Twickenham.

Hodge's injury could solve a selection dilemma for Scotland, allowing Townsend to retain his place, with either Tait or a fit-again Jamie Mayer at outside centre. For once, Scotland have strength in depth from which to choose. Stuart Grimes capably filled Weir's place in the second row. "Every player in the 22 is good enough to play internationals. In previous years we only had 14 or 15," Logan said.

After only four months in Scotland, John Leslie has become an indispensable component in the country's rugby machine. Leslie was expected to fulfil a contract in Japan but is hopeful that negotiations between the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) and its Japanese counterpart will allow him to stay in Scotland.

"I really feel at home here," he said, after his debut in the Five Nations. "Whoever said the tournament was boring doesn't know what they are talking about."


Hodge: broken left fibula

Humphreys left kicking himself as victory escapes

John Hopkins on the perils of being a goalkicker and Ireland's selection policy

DAVID HUMPHREYS wears a scrum cap. This is commonplace for a forward who shoves his head between the bony hips of a colleague or wants to avoid a series of thumpings from an opponent that will leave him with two cauliflower ears for the rest of his life. It is unusual, though, for a fly half.

Perhaps we now know why. Maybe the padding of the headgear helps to lift the weight of expectations that Humphreys had to bear against France. After all, Humphreys was his team's goalkicker. He was the man who was going to kick Ireland to victory over France. Why? Because the force and recent formbook had been going the way of Ireland. There was not only Ulster's performance in the European Cup, but also victories by Ireland's A and Under-21 teams over their French rivals on Friday.

Most of Ireland thought that Humphreys could do for the national team at Lansdowne Road on Saturday what he had done for Ulster in the European Cup final seven days earlier. Many of the thousands who walked through Dublin's cold, dank air probably thought that they could still hear faint echoes of the cheers that greeted Ulster's triumph on the same ground the previous week.

If it is a cliché that a week is a long time in politics, it is one in rugby as well. The day of the European Cup final was mild and still with little wind. The morning of the match against France was overcast, cold and wet. Rain fell almost incessantly, light at first, in sheets later.

Humphreys, whose tactical kicking had been precise for Ulster and who had launched some enormous garryowens, missed two penalties in the first seven minutes and, soon afterwards, kicked a ball straight into touch. Seven days earlier he had done very little wrong; now, for the opening minutes anyway, he could very little right.

One of the memories of this game is of a moment when Humphreys shaped to kick in midfield. Everyone in the 50,000-strong crowd assumed he was going to kick: so did the French players. But, in a classic display of fly-half intuition, he suddenly and electrically chose to run — darting athletically and speedily through a gap in the French defence. It was one of those instances that brings you to the edge of your seat. A couple of sliced kicks from hand apart, Humphreys did little wrong.

Yet a more lasting memory of him on Saturday is his kicking at goal. Having missed those two penalties early on, he then missed one at the very end, one that would have given Ireland a lead of 12-10, and, it is fair to assume, victory.

Pity the goalkicker. A hero when his kicks go over, he has to endure the sullen glance, at best, and public criticism, at worst, when they go wide. There are three good goalkicking fly halves available for Ireland at present. Humphreys is the fourth. The implication is that it was risky for Ireland to go into this match without one of their best goalkickers.

"It's a fair point to make," Warren Gatling, the Ireland coach, said after the game, "but David is one of the top goalkickers in the country. He had been kicking well all week. It is disappointing."

Donal Lenihan, the Ireland team manager, said the way that his team lost a game that they had looked like winning reminded him of their defeat by Australia in the 1991 World Cup.

He looked and sounded bitterly disappointed. So too, did Gatling, who believes that Irish rugby has progressed considerably in the past two years.

One of the cardinal rules of the game, though, is that the goalkicker is the first name to be written down on a team sheet. Ireland ignored that on Saturday and paid a hefty price.

Perfect appetisers for the main courses ahead

MICHAEL LYNAGH



What more do the Irish have to do to win? They led for all but a minute of normal playing time, only to have a dubious penalty awarded against them. If Paul Wallace was offside, it must only have been by a foot — nothing compared to other indiscretions that went unpunished at Lansdowne Road. The valiant Irish could only stand and watch as all of their hard toil was undone by the boot of Castaignède.

They did have one chance to redeem themselves in the final minute through David Humphreys. But the penalty, in kickable range, was no "gimmee" as the wind and rain, which had such an influence on the game, was against him.

Sadly, Humphreys missed, but he should never have been put in this position by the Irish selectors, for he has not been kicking regularly for Ulster. Simon Mason has had that responsibility and performed almost without fault, but he is not in the team as Conor O'Shea has been in such devastating form.

Niall Woods should have played and been handed the goalkicking duties. His success rate this season in the Premiership is above 80 per cent and his inclusion would have kept the exceptional London Irish back three of O'Shea, Woods and Bishop together.

The Irish should take heart from their performance; the French, on the other hand, were a disappointment and seemed more intent on maiming the Irish than attempting to win. I am not saying that the Irish are saints when it comes to intimidation — Peter Clohessy, a prime example, was spoken to constantly by the referee.

Phillippe Carbonneau, the France scrum half, must be the most annoying, unpleasant and niggly player in world rugby; he cannot walk past an opposition player without stepping on hands or pulling a jumper. Referees and touch judges must keep him under control before he causes a nasty incident.

There were other running battles. Raphael Ibanez, the French captain and hooker, spent most of the match attempting to attack Keith Woods, his opposite number. The French need to concentrate on their game. Their handling, even given the wet weather, was poor. They will also need to be more disciplined if they are to threaten England.

The Dublin match, enthralling in every old-fashioned aspect, was in complete contrast to that at Murrayfield, which was a celebration of wonderful rugby. It had everything. What the game showed was that the teams and coaches are not afraid of innovation and, as a result, we are watching increasingly entertaining and higher-quality matches.

Wales overcomplicated matters. There were times when they just needed to settle, take some yardage and do the simple things first. Once they get things working they will be formidable. Neil Jenkins is turning into a class act at fly half, with everyone around him reading from the same page. They have plenty of ability to cope with a game-plan that requires people to operate with finesse and power and under defensive pressure.

But, from the first whistle, when a switched kick-off worked to perfection, to Scott Murray going over to seal victory. Scotland's was a superb performance. They did not have it all their own way, but the Scottish forwards drove relentlessly at the heart of the Welsh pack and splintered them. Scotland did not do anything too flash, and they tackled until the Welsh could take no more.

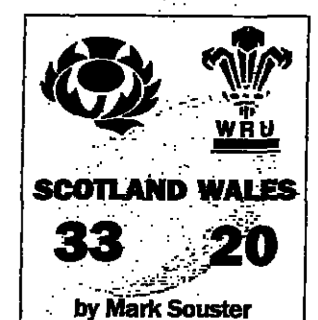
A marvellous start, then. Now what does this last Five Nations Championship have in store?

Five Nations Championship: Injury to Hodge changes direction in favour of Scotland

Townsend makes the difference



Flying start: Jenkins, left, of Wales, is powerless to prevent Leslie diving over for a try for Scotland after only nine seconds, reputedly the fastest in the history of the Five Nations



MUCH has been written and said about Gregor Townsend, the great enigma of Scottish rugby, a player good enough to be the British Isles fly half two years ago but not, apparently, for Scotland, at least not this season. What is his best position? Does his very versatility count against him?

He fought off the challenge of Craig Chalmers only to find Duncan Hodge taking his place in the affections of the selectors. His detractors admit that he can change the course of a game in an instant, but point out an equal capability to have an incomprehensible moment of apparent madness. To do a "Toony" has entered into rugby's vernacular.

The unfortunate injury to Hodge early in the second half of the Lloyds TSB international provided him with an opportunity once more to stake his claim to a position in which he has won 19 of his 37 caps. Simmering he may have been at his initial selection, but he came to the boil nicely, his display surely settling the argument, especially as Hodge will not play again this season.

Out of adversity and misfortune Scotland found almost instant salvation.. It is not to say that they might not have gone on to beat Wales, who led 13-8 at the time, had Hodge not been injured, but the switch to fly half and Alan Tait's introduction at outside centre brought a new balance and shape. With Kenny Logan proving an adept goalkicker, having Townsend in his favoured position does not now mean there must be compromises elsewhere to accommodate him.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, led the plaudits for Townsend, whom he said had made a significant difference. "He had a big game. He has great vision," Henry said. John Rutherford, the Scotland backs' coach, said that Townsend "shaped the game pretty well in the second half".

At the time, Scotland were finding difficulty in creating scoring opportunities, and Townsend's disenchantment was apparent. In the first half, he had been caught out in defence by Allan Bateman and twice knocked on when trying to make things happen. Once he moved into the thick of the action, though, his and Scotland's confidence grew.

Within moments Townsend had scored a try that brought Scotland parity with Wales, who dominated tracts of the game but whose predictability proved easy to counter. It was a seminal moment, one that Robert Howley, the Wales captain, immediately regretted.

Wales won a penalty 40 metres out, but Howley tapped and ran — straight into trouble. Townsend anticipated Jenkins' pass to Quinnell and set off on a 65-metre sprint to the line. Instead of 16-8 to Wales, Logan's conversion put Scotland in front.

Even when Wales conjured a try for Gibbs from a move that three times involved Chris Wyatt, to sneak ahead once more, Scotland never felt that they would lose. Their forwards, led by Eric Peters, continued to ruck and drive through the middle, and their domination was such that in the final 12 minutes, they scored another 18 points. Townsend's burst took out two defenders, found Tait and the latter's clever angle took him through Gibbs' tackle. The position had been created a minute earlier when Murray stole a Wales line-out. Murray scored the fourth and final try with a drive from close range after Ed Morrison, the referee, had missed a knock-on. Murray admitted that Scotland were angered by the patronising dismissal of their chances by Wales. "Wales did not mention us, talking only of France and England," he said.

Scotland can now head to Twickenham with confidence enhanced by their first home victory in the Five Nations Championship for two years. They might not have beaten England since 1990, but this year they insist they will not suffer an inferiority complex. "Last time at Twickenham we did not have a game-plan," Townsend said. "England will be worried about us now."

Confidence is derived from the knowledge that Matthew Proudfoot, the tighthead anchor, will be fit for consideration, as should Gordon Simpson, the flank forward, and Bryan Redpath, from whom Armstrong assumed the captaincy. "Coming back from Australia, we needed three or four more players to make our team comparable with 1991 and 1995," Townsend said. "We have found these players, not just the Leslie brothers, but guys like Scott (Murray), who is on the top of his game. This is only a starting point."

Talking of starts, Scotand could not have hoped for a better one that that provided by John Leslie, who scored reputedly the fastest try in the history of the championship.

Hodge's kick-off tested the exposed Matthew Robinson, who only had Shane Howarth in support. Leslie plucked the ball from Howarth's grasp and raced to score after only nine seconds, beating the previous record dating back to 1923, when Leo Price scored for Wales in ten seconds.

Wales fought back and, with Jenkins calling the shots at fly-half, looked the more accomplished side. Even though they struggled in the line-out and scrummage, where their callow front five found life difficult, their midfield movement asked numerous questions of the Scots. Once they fell behind, though, they resorted to the ineffectual crash ball.

"Scotland beat us up front," Henry said. "Generally they played better for most of the game. We have to vary the game a bit more."

With the juggernaut packs of England, Ireland and France around the corner, they will need to.

MATCH DETAILS

SCORERS: Scotland: Tries: J Leslie (1 min), Townsend (48), Tait (69), Murray (76) **Conversions:** Logan 2 **Penalty goals:** Hodge (38), Logan 2 (72, 80). **Wales: Tries:** James (35), Gibbs (63) **Conversions:** Jenkins 2. **Penalty goals:** Jenkins 2 (7, 40)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Scotland first). 5-0, 5-3, 5-10, 8-10, 8-13, (half-time), 15-13, 15-20, 20-20, 23-20, 30-20, 33-20
SCOTLAND: G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), **C A Murray** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G P J Townsend** (Brive), **J A Leslie** (Glasgow Caledonians), **K M Logan** (Wasps), **D W Hodge** (Edinburgh Reivers, rep. **A V Tait**, Edinburgh Reivers, 48), **G Armstrong** (Newcastle Falcons), **T J Smith** (Glasgow Caledonians), **G C Bulloch** (Glasgow Caledonians), **A P Burnell** (London Scottish rep: **D I W Hilton**, Bath, 72), **S Murray** (Bedford), **G W Weir** (Newcastle Falcons, rep. **S B Grimes**, Glasgow Caledonians, 40), **P Walton** (Newcastle Falcons, rep: **A C Pountney**, Northampton, 68), **M D Leslie** (Edinburgh Reivers, rep. **A C Pountney**, Northampton, 22-31), **E W Peters** (Bath)
WALES: S P Howarth (Manchester Sale), **M F D Robinson** (Swansea), **A G Bateman** (Richmond), **I S Gibbs** (Swansea), **D R James** (Cardiff), **N R Jenkins** (Pontypridd), **R Howley** (Cardiff), **D R Morris** (Swansea), **J M Humphreys** (Cardiff rep. **B Williams**, Richmond, 56), **C A Anthony** (Swansea), **I Gough** (Pontypridd, rep. **M J Voyle**, Llanelli, 67), **C P Wyatt** (Llanelli), **C L Charvis** (Swansea), **M E Williams** (Pontypridd), **L S Quinnell** (Llanelli)
Referee: E F Morrison (England)

Defeat could ignite flames of victory

Gerald Davies believes that Wales can prosper, despite their latest loss

It may appear perverse, but Wales, in losing, may benefit more from their encounter with Scotland than their opponents, who may be encouraged towards an exaggerated sense of optimism. Beyond the buoyancy of their immediate celebration, how much confidence will Scotland garner from a victory that stemmed largely from Wales's innumerable mistakes?

This was the kind of inspired performance by the home team, energised by the label of underdogs, which can draw on unexpected reserves of resolve, rather than give a spur to higher levels of creativity. This was hinted at when Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, who is as pragmatic and stern a disciplinarian as one can expect, said that the victory was owed to "the fifteen players who are all the same".

A collective effort, in other words, where no one player could be recognised as a star performer. Another interpretation might suggest that the performance left a great deal to be desired, but raises the question of whether they are capable of attaining more.

The problem for him and his colleagues is whether they will be good enough to combat the more formidable tasks that lie ahead when they will, in both scrum and lineout, be up against opposition who will be brawnier, more experienced and more streetwise.

Nothing in Wales's previous two encounters had led anyone to expect them to be so severely disjointed in these two phases. Their mistakes went a great deal towards helping give shape to Scotland's efforts.

Two factors neatly conjoined to seal the fate of the visitors. Wales were distinctly uncomfortable in the lineout during the first half. In an age when the throwing-in side can secure possession with predictable accuracy, Wales were struggling against the trend and found, by the end, that they had relinquished some half a dozen of their own balls.

In Townsend, who moved to fly half in the 46th minute, Scotland had the ideal man to exploit such a weakness. Knowing of Wales' uncertainty, he was not at all perturbed about kicking the ball out of play, seeing that his forwards had a better-than-even chance of regaining it at the resultant lineout. Tait's try, from the fly half's half-break, emerged from such a lineout. This was after Wales had fashioned a brilliant try by Gibbs, which had suggested that Wales might not surrender their lead again.

Events took such a turn that the tide turned irrevocably in Scotland's favour. It resulted in a scoreline that was hardly a reflection of the difference between the two teams.

Yet for all the insecurity of Wales — who committed more unforced errors in these 80 minutes than in both of their previous two internationals against South Africa and Argentina — they had been the far more creative team.

In retreating back to Wales in a mood that is by now familiar to them, the team might ponder that, if they can eradicate these errors, much more can be expected of them.

Admittedly, there is only a modicum of comfort in this. Losing, as Graham Henry, the Wales coach admitted, is not very helpful in a tournament. Whatever their perception is of the learning curve, it must now be foreshortened. This must have been a thoroughly frustrating afternoon for a New Zealander who expects his team to play efficiently, above all else.



Townsend: sound tactics

His team gave away two soft tries — Leslie's, from the kick-off, and Townsend's, in the seventh minute of the second half. Henry might suggest to his captain, too, that if he is granted the opportunity of a kicking three points, he should take it. Had Howley done this, instead of taking a tap penalty, Wales might have extended their lead to eight points in the second half, which might have proved a useful cushion.

It is these ifs and buts that Wales have to eradicate if they are to recover their confidence. There had been so much of it before Saturday.

Low confidence betrays Sale

Sale	7
London Scottish	23

By Nicolas Andrews

DESPITE a club record-equalling losing run that now stretches to six league defeats, Sale have enjoyed a pretty good press of late. John Mitchell's promising young players have attracted praise for their style, if not yet their substance, and seven of them will be training with England and England A today and tomorrow.

They were awful, though, on Saturday. They lacked penetration, chose the wrong options, repeatedly were turned over, kicked away possession and were penalised for a series of silly transgressions. Rees, Hanley, Mather, Greening, Beim, Bell and Pat Sanderson may be stars of the future but, on this occasion, all singularly failed to shine.

"We're lacking confidence," Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, said. "One thing you can't coach is experience; you have to wait for the penny to drop. Some of the younger guys have a lot of ability, but they are learning the hard way." The arrival of Dawie Theron, the South Africa prop, who made his debut, should help.

That London Scottish are still playing first-division rugby is something of a relief and, lacking ten first-choice players because of injuries and international calls, they performed with commendable spirit. This was their first league victory at Heywood Road and completed a most satisfying double over their only rivals for third-worst side in the division. These two teams may well swap places a few times yet, but this Scottish triumph was thoroughly deserved.

Jannie de Beer, inevitably, was the architect. Two successful penalty kicks were followed by a third to the corner, where Mick Watson won the lineout and fed Paul Johnstone, who found Tom Davies. The London Scottish flanker had only just emerged from the sin bin when he scored the opening try.

A serious ankle injury to Steve Davidson at the end of Sale's most coherent move of the first half hardly helped their cause. Play was held up for seven minutes before the centre could be carried away to hospital.

Sale did cut the deficit after the interval, when Barrie-Jon Mather was first to the ball after Steve Cook had fumbled at the base of a London Scottish scrum and Pat Sanderson hacked on. But de Beer steadied the Scottish ship with a third penalty and then the former South Africa fly half converted Guy Easterby's try.

"We had identified that we were at a crossroads," John Steele, the London Scottish director of rugby, said. "So that was a big, big win for us."

SCORERS: Sale: Try: Mather (52min). **Conversion:** Shaw. **London Scottish: Tries:** T Davies (36), Easterby (70). **Conversions:** De Beer 2. **Penalty goals:** De Beer 3 (1, 22, 66)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-3, 0-6, 0-13 (half-time), 7-13, 7-16, 7-23
SALE: J Mallinder (rep: D Rees, 46min); C Yates (rep: Mallinder, 70), S Davidson (rep: J Shaw, 16), B-J Mather, S Hanley; J Baxendell, R Smith (rep: P Knight, 75); D Bell (rep: P Whinstanley, 66), P Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui (rep: D Baldwin, 75), C Murphy, P Anglesea, A Sanderson (sin-bin, 70-80), A Morris (rep: P Sanderson, 51).
LONDON SCOTTISH: S Binns; K Milligan, R Dawes, J Bonney, S Forrest (rep: J Philip, 75); J de Beer, S Cook (rep: G Easterby, 70), P Johnstone, D Rudham, M Macdonald (rep: C Johnstone, 66), E Jones, M Watson, S Fenn (rep: R Hunter, 43), T Davies (sin-bin, 24-34), G Manson-Bishop
Referee: C White (Gloucestershire)

Allied Dunbar Premiership

Grayson's boot lacks the weight of his convictions

Northampton	18
Saracens	21

By Christopher Irvine

SO MUCH for cautionary rugby. All season, Northampton have been running penalties and winning. When they paused to take them at Franklins Gardens on Saturday, they not only lost the game but further ground on Leicester at the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, for which the wayward Paul Grayson was a convenient scapegoat.

Had one of his three penalty-goal attempts in the last seven minutes found the target, Grayson would have been the saviour. The result should have been put beyond doubt in an eight-minute spell early in the second half, when Saracens had only thirteen players, yet they conceded just three points to the boot of Grayson in that time.

Saracens' indignation at the white cards shown to Penaud and Pienaar was one thing, their intransigence during that spell quite another. As he took his leave, a furious Penaud had to be restrained from repeating his retaliatory push at Blyth on Ashley Rowden, the touch judge.

Humiliation for Bath	36
Results and tables	40

It was not simply the wit and invention that Northampton lacked, but overall stamina. Playing Metcalfe less than 24 hours after his Scotland A appearance was nonsensical. By comparison, Saracens emerged from a pressure-free January bristling with ideas and intent.

Northampton now have five weeks to regroup before the make-or-break visit of Leicester on March 13. They will also need to forget that they could be two points, rather than four, behind the leaders. At 18-10 in front entering the final quarter, silly errors overwhelmed them. Dawson had a fingers-and-thumbs afternoon opposite the highly focused Bracken, his heir-apparent as England scrum half, whose tapped penalty for Saracens' second try by Ravenscroft began the recovery.

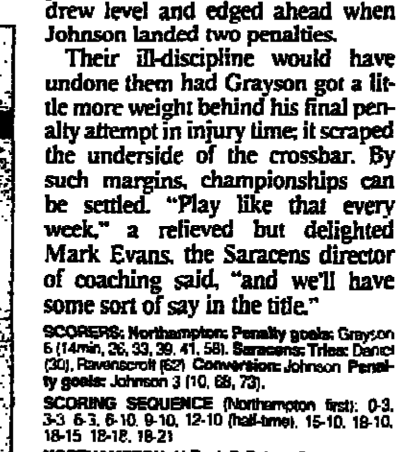
The directness and speed of Daniel on the left wing for the opening try had exposed Northampton's frailties. These were papered over by Grayson's six penalties, yet were all too apparent as a full Saracens complement, with Pienaar outstanding, drew level and edged ahead when Johnson landed two penalties.

Their ill-discipline would have undone them had Grayson got a little more weight behind his final penalty attempt in injury time; it scraped the underside of the crossbar. By such margins, championships can be settled. "Play like that every week," a relieved but delighted Mark Evans, the Saracens director of coaching said, "and we'll have some sort of say in the title."



Gavin Johnson, of Saracens, is tackled by Grant Seeley as he surges forward in search of the Northampton line at Franklins Gardens

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson 6 (14min, 26, 33, 39, 41, 58). **Saracens: Tries:** Daniel (30), Ravenscroft (62) **Conversion:** Johnson **Penalty goals:** Johnson 3 (10, 69, 73).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Northampton first): 0-3, 3-3, 6-3, 6-10, 9-10, 12-10 (half-time), 15-10, 18-10, 18-15, 18-18, 18-21
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; B Cohen, D Dantiacq, A Blyth, H Thorneycroft (rep: M Allen, 25-31min); P Grayson, M Dawson, G Pagel, F Mendez, M Hynes, J Phillips, R Metcalfe (rep: S Hepher, 77), D Mackinnon (rep. C Allen, 71), P Lam, G Seely
SARACENS: G Johnson; R Thirlby, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, B Daniel; A Penaud (sin-bin 49-59), K Bracken, D Flatman, G Chuter, B Reidy, K Chesney, D Grewcock, F Pienaar (sin-bin 51-61), R Hill (rep: P Ogilvie, 24), A Diprose
Referee: G Warren (Bristol).



Leicester spoil the party for Carling

Harlequins	9
Leicester	34

By Steve Fleming

WILL CARLING stole the show with a brief walk-on part, but Leicester tightened their grip on the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division with an epic second-half performance at the Stoop Memorial Ground.

Age is not an issue, according to the 33-year-old former England captain, but fitness most definitely is at the highest level and Carling, at 13st 7lb, 2st lighter than on his last appearance for Harlequins in December 1997, dispelled some of the doubts on that score. Coming on as a substitute in the 75th minute for fellow centre Peter Mensah, Carling picked up the pace of the game immediately with a couple of trademark runs and some hard tackles. However, he is well aware of the need to continue improving his fitness.

He said: "I've got to put in a lot of work to get really fit, there's a lot to be done. I've got to prove to these guys here at the club that I can really do it and merit a place in the side."

Despite Carling's comeback and the return of David Pears, 31, who last played for Harlequins in November 1995, at fly half, it was Leicester who showed greater application and appetite, outscoring their hosts five tries to none and racking up 24 points unanswered in the second period.

Pears, on loan from Wharfedale, of Jewson League One, did little wrong but, once the Leicester forwards got into their stride, Harlequins were starved of quality possession. Martin Corry and Neil Back, the Leicester back-row forwards, proved relentless in gaining the hard yards and set up attack after attack.

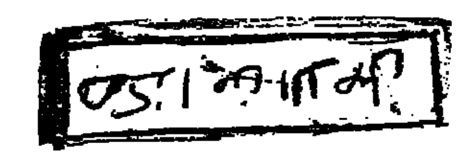
Leicester now have a four-point lead at the top, but Dean Richards, their director of rugby, refuses to accept that the title is now a formality. John Gallagher, Harlequins director of rugby, was not so circumspect. He said: "I can't see anyone catching them now." As for Carling, he added: "Will didn't do anything wrong, but he knows he has to earn his place here."

Once he achieves that — and on the evidence of Saturday surely he will — he may put himself in contention for a return to the England side. Carling claims that his international career is over, but the lure of Twickenham and the World Cup in October could prove too strong.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Penalty goals: Schuster 3 (10min, 21, 40) **Leicester: Tries:** Moody (28), Back (49), Lloyd 2 (58, 74), Stransky (78) **Conversions:** Stransky 3 **Penalties:** Stransky (38)
SCORING SEQUENCE: 3-0, 6-0, 6-7, 6-10, 9-10 (half-time) 9-17, 9-22, 9-27, 9-34
HARLEQUINS: J Williams, D O'Leary, P Mensah (rep: W Carling, 75min), I Schuster, D Luger; D Pears, H Harries (rep: N Walshe 62), J Leonard (rep: A Yates, 12-20), T Murphy (rep: C Ridgway 75), G Halpin (rep: A Yates, 71), G Llewellyn, G Morgan, R Jenkins, A Leach, C Sheasby (rep: S White-Cooper 22), E Davison 48)
LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd (rep: M Horak 75), C Joiner, P Howard (rep: J Stuart 75), D Lougheed; J Stransky, A Healey; G Rowntree (rep: D Jelley 68), R Cockerill (rep: D West 68), D Garforth, M Johnson, F van Heerden (rep: N Fletcher 41), L Moody (rep: W Johnson 63), N Back, M Corry
Referee: Chris Rees (RFU)



Carling: concerned about level of fitness on return to action



هكذا عن الاصل

RUGBY UNION

Robinson fury as Bath sink lower

Wasps 35
Bath....................................0

By Mark Baldwin

NO RESULT this season has symbolised so graphically the decline and fall of the old Bath empire. For the first time in their proud history, Bath failed to score in a league fixture, and this was also their heaviest defeat in terms of points margin. It would have been even worse had Wasps not squandered five kicks.

"This was a total embarrassment for the club, and I have told the players that," Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, said. " I am embarrassed to be coach of Bath Rugby Club tonight. We were lucky to get nought. We were totally outmuscled and totally outthought. We missed tackles and lacked any ability to keep the ball."

Robinson, however, did give credit to Wasps, who were ecstatic. Five tries decorated a Wasps performance that had everything — disciplined and hard-edged defence and a richness of attacking ideas that even included a couple of flamboyant dummies from Andy Reed, the veteran lock.

The majority of the 9,526 crowd relished every moment — especially the second bodyswerve by Reed, against his former club, during the buildup to the first of two tries scored by Martyn Wood.

Robinson, as a prelude to his dark mood afterwards, made his feelings plain at that stage by bringing on four replacements. It made no difference. Wasps, combining pace and power in every area of the field, scored twice more in the last quarter.

Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said: "Bath are among equals now — they have to live the same as everyone else. I said to my players before the start to look at their faces and see who they recognised. And you don't know them all now — you're not intimidated by them any more.

"I'm obviously very pleased, especially as we had an entire back division out there which is under 25 and English, which must be a first for the Premiership."

Cardiff may take over an English club to avoid having to close down after their hopes of an Anglo-Welsh League were dashed, Gareth Davies, the club's chief executive, said.

There was a gaping hole in the Bath defensive line when, off the back of a line-out, Peter Scrivener romped away to claim the first score of the afternoon. Alex King, given goalkicking responsibilities in the absence of Kenny Logan, who had been in action for Scotland 24 hours earlier, missed two early penalties before finding his range.

He also converted a try by Mark Weedon, who was on hand to pick up and dive over after Paul Volley had scythed through, and the fly half stretched the Wasps lead to 20-0 with a second penalty four minutes after the resumption. Bath had just one chance to get back into the game, but Mike Tindall, the centre, cut inside into a wall of defenders when, going over the Wasps 22, he had three men and a clear overlap outside him.

Scrivener set up the first try by Wood by charging down a kick by Matt Perry, and another barnstorming interchange of close-range passes up the right touchline led to a second try for Wood, the scrum half.

By now, Gareth Rees, appearing after a five-month spell on the sidelines, was on for King, but he could not convert the final try from Trevor Leota, either.

SCORERS: Wasps Tries: Scrivener (18 min), Weedon (30), Wood 2 (50, 67), Leota (73) **Conversions:** King 2. **Penalties:** King 2 (24, 44)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 7-0, 10-0, 17-0 (half-time) 20-0, 25-0, 30-0, 35-0

WASPS: J Lewsey; S Roiser, F Walters, M Denney, P Sampson; A King (rep G Rees 55, min), M Wood; D Molloy, T Leota (rep D Alexopoulos, 11-21), W Green, M Weedon, A Reed (rep S Shaw 65), L Dallaglio, P Volley (rep J Worsley, 62), P Scrivener

BATH: M Perry; I Balshaw, M Tindall (rep K Magge 50), J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, G Cooper (rep A Gomarsall, 50); K Yates, M Regan (rep A Long, 50), V Ubogu (rep J Mallett, 50), M Haag (rep B Sturnham, 66), S Borthwick, R Earnshaw, R Webster, D Lyle

Referee: C Thomas (Bridgend)

ARMANDO TROVATI



Maier takes to the air on his way to victory in the downhill

SKIING

Maier keeps his nerve in exhilarating run

From Graham Duffill
in Vail, Colorado

HERMANN MAIER skied the best downhill of his short and remarkable career at the World Championships in Vail to take his second gold medal. Maier, 26, of Austria, who took the skiing world by storm two years ago with an attacking style that earned him the name "The Hermannator", has had mixed success in downhill.

He has won at Bormio twice and Wengen once but, because he knows only one speed — flat out — he has had some dramatic exits, memorably at the last winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, when he flew off the course upside down. After skiing the super-giant slalom to the same one-hundredth of a second as his downhill rival, Lasse Kjus, of Norway, who has won four races this season to Maier's one, would it be a Hermannator run or would memories of Nagano lead him to tackle the steep, icy course at Beaver Creek with caution?

Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, of Norway, who has not had a downhill win since 1994, set the first real target, racing No 6. Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, was fast in training but cautious here, leaving the stage for Maier, No 8, to burst from the starting gate. He tucked in for the first, flat gliding section, got an excellent line through the steep Talon turn, where skiers have to turn hard on ice with the slope dropping away from them. Then the fireworks began.

Maier burst through a series of six gates set tight like a super-giant slalom, shouldering aside the stiff plastic poles with his body, risking hooking a ski or knocking himself off balance. It looked impressive, the Hermannator at his best, and analysis of split times would show later that Maier won the the race on the top third of the course.

Maier said he decided to charge the gates with his body because the poles were too stiff to hit with his hand. "It is always dangerous to attack so much, but I thought I could not make the same crash as at Nagano. It was a great race for me and at the end I made one of the softest jumps I have ever done."

In comparison to Maier's charge, Kjus looked as if he was on a training run. The big Norwegian's style is deceptive, but the man who had decided that he needed only one training run, then was asking Aamodt, his teammate, for advice on which line to take, seemed to have given the race mentally to the Hermannator.

Kjus, racing immediately after Maier, would have had no knowledge of his rival's time, but said: "I watched him on TV after the race and saw he skied like a crazy man, so I am not surprised he was so fast." With a headwind picking up strength, and snow beginning to fall, later competitors did not have a chance. Daron Rahlves, of the United States, who fell, was among those critical of the decision to race in such conditions. "I just couldn't see," he said.

Andrew Freshwater, of Great Britain, racing No 33, finished 24th.

MARC ASPLAND



Brendan Venter, of London Irish, who probed constantly for openings, attempts to escape Gloucester's clutches

Woods keeps Irish smiling

London Irish.......................42
Gloucester.........................20

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

OVER the water, a wheel may have been removed from the Ireland bandwagon, but London Irish keep rolling along. At a bright, cold Sunbury yesterday, they crept back into the top three of the Allied Dunbar Premiership to set up an intriguing clash with Leicester next Saturday.

The gap between the two form teams remains six points, with the Exiles having played one game more, but their brand of rugby remains an intoxicating mix. At times, they resemble nothing more than a sevens team playing the extended game.

In the opening quarter, the finesse that has become the Irish trademark was absent, almost as though they were in brief mourning for the national side; but with the wind behind them, they grew into their customary game, with Niall Woods making a significant contribution towards breaking the initial deadlock. The wing's dancing feet carried him into midfield for Berridge's first try.

It is an important time for Woods, if he is to break back into Ireland's first-choice side. "I'm happy that I'm playing well," he said. "If I was asked to kick too, it wouldn't affect me. That's just part of my game." That responsibility was shared with Jarrod Cunningham yesterday.

Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, made the point that the Irish squad, so replete with southern-hemisphere experience, is also more mature than most, with an average age of 28. With that in mind, Hill was pleased with the form shown by Ed Pearce, whose speed on the break helped Saint-Andre to his try.

The merit of Woods' try was that it came immediately after Carter had scored from a lineout to give Gloucester an illusory sniff of hope: two tries within five minutes pushed the Irish out to a 24-point lead, the first from Feaunati, the second from a tapped penalty on halfway, from which Berridge outstripped Mapletoft to the corner.

Benton scurried to the line, but no one could deny the Irish the final word: Putt and Kirke surged through the midfield before Hatley, the prop, who has been invited to train today and tomorrow with the England A squad, loped delightedly to the line.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Berridge 2 (26min, 57), Woods (38), Feaunati (52) Cunningham (69), Hatley (80) **Conversions:** Cunningham 2, Woods. **Penalty goal:** Cunningham (4) **Dropped goal:** Bachop (33) **Gloucester: Tries:** Carter (35), Saint-Andre (61), Benton (73) **Conversion:** Mapletoft **Penalty goal:** Mapletoft (17)

SCORING SEQUENCE (London Irish first). 3-0, 3-3, 10-3, 13-3, 13-8, 20-8 (half-time), 25-8, 32-8, 32-13, 37-13, 37-20, 42-20.

LONDON IRISH: J Cunningham; S Berridge, R Todd, B Venter, N Woods; S Bachop, K Putt; N Hatley, R Kirke, R Hardwick (rep K Fullman, 67min), R Strudwick, M Bird (rep N Harvey, 67), J Boer, R Gallacher, I Feaunati

GLOUCESTER: M Mapletoft; T Beim, T Fanolua (rep A Lumsden, 77), R Tombs, P Saint-Andre (rep R Greenslade-Jones, 70); S Mannix, S Benton; T Woodman, N McCarthy, A Powles (rep: D Hinkins, 62), R Fidler, D Sims (rep M Cornwell, 66), E Pearce, N Carter (rep. A Hazell, 64), S Ojomoh

Referee: T Fisher (Manchester)

Ivo Tennant watches a new generation turn their hand to basketball

Youngsters shine at different game

THE popularity of basketball within schools is not the least reason for its standing as the fastest-growing indoor sport. Glorified on television and glamorised in fashion, the appeal is to the most impressionable. As evidenced in the final of the English Schools Association under-14 competition yesterday, in which Moulton completed a 53-48 victory over Greensward, standards are improving every year.

The competition had culminated in eight schools contesting the final rounds over the weekend at Greensward in Hockley, a spa town turned commuter stop on the hectic Liverpool Street to Southend line. All 1,350 pupils who attend this granted-maintained mixed comprehensive play basketball as part of the curriculum as well as outside school hours. Three girls, Vikki Willmore, Louise Gammon and Sarah Hopkins, have represented England at under-15 and under-16 levels.

Indeed, the growth of the sport within schools, particularly the state sector, is remarkable. Tony Mescall, the organiser of this competition and the PE teacher at Greensward, never played basketball at all in his youth — "I am from South Wales, where rugby and football were the sports," he said — and Moulton, a mixed comprehensive of 1,200 pupils near Northampton, was better known for



nurturing Ian Salisbury, the England leg spinner.

Neither of the finalists had won this shield before. Greensward's most prominent former pupil is Martin Girvan, the hammer thrower who distinguished himself with silver medals at two Commonwealth Games.

"Increased television coverage has done a great deal for the sport and so has the clothing and fashion," Paul Smith, the Moulton coach, said. "Every American film has a basketball connotation these days. Girls have got the bug and keep playing, so the standard is twice as good as when we started four years ago."

Football is still the most popular sport at Moulton — inevitably — and Northamptonshire send players to



Greensward School girls grapple with a student from Moulton School, centre, in the under-14 English schools basketball final

the school to coach cricket, but basketball, according to Smith "has dragged in a lot of kids who would not normally play sport". Two of their girls who took part in this final, Sophie Freeman and Andrea Wanstall, are in the England under-15 squad.

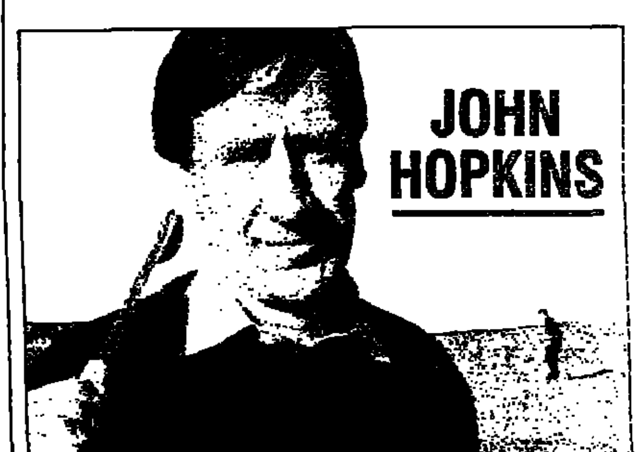
There are further benefits. The impressive new sports hall at Greensward, built last September through a £540,000 loan and marked out for basketball on a semi-sprung floor, is also used by the local community. "It has cut down vandalism in Hockley," David Triggs, the Greensward head teacher, said. "When I arrived, I introduced the motto, 'To make our best better'. We fully embrace Tony Blair's views on education and want to become a community learning centre. Anyone who says they are fed up with change in teaching is in the wrong job."

The significance of basketball to young people was also apparent from the fact that, in addition to Rochford Council, the sponsors included Nike. An England scout was also present, which was not surprising given that Greensward has teams of girls in the finals of the English Schools Association under-15s, the semi-finals of the under-16s and the quarter-finals of the under-19s. And the boys can play a bit, as well.

Although Moulton looked likely winners throughout this final, Greensward always kept their lead within bounds. Freeman was a tall, dominant player, scoring 27 of Moulton's 53 points. The captain, Ellie Birch, also caught the eye. Her opposite number, Willmore, 13, who has already represented England at under-15 level, achieved scored no fewer than 29 of Greensward's 48 points. There were moves executed in the match which would not have been attempted in schools basketball a few years ago.

Willmore has been playing basketball for only two years, having started at school. "My father was in the British Olympic squad for diving in 1980 before having to drop out," she said. "But this is a sport that is new to my family. I am ambitious to continue playing after I leave Greensward."

Bonallack will be a hard act to follow



Henry Longhurst always said that he had the best job in the world. "I am paid to do what I want to do, which is to write about golf," the distinguished correspondent used to marvel, peering at his shoes through the bottom of a glass of gin.

But among those jobs that could push Longhurst's close is that of the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. The incumbent of this office works a wedge shot away from one of the broadest beaches in Britain, used in the opening scenes of *Chariots of Fire*. The room in which he works is big enough to hold a bunker, a putting green and a pitching area as well. From this eyrie overlooking the 1st and 18th holes of the Old Course, half the Kingdom of Fife is visible on a clear day and, from the binoculars mounted on the balcony outside his office, the secretary can identify the make of a ball in the Road Hole bunker and count the dimples, too.

Sir Michael Bonallack has held this job since 1983. "It is nice to know a knight," David Fay, the executive director of the United States Golf Association (USGA), said when Bonallack was honoured last summer. "Michael has been the outstanding administrator in the game. Given what he has done as a British champion golfer and what he has contributed to the game, this is a most deserved honour. It is very rare to find a champion turning into an administrator in such a seamless manner."

Now though, Bonallack is putting out on the 18th green of his career. He will be 65 on December 31 and a successor is being sought to work alongside him for the past few months. A Glasgow-based firm, Genesis Consulting, has drawn up a shortlist to be considered by a five-man selection committee drawn from among the R and A hierarchy.

The chairman of this committee is Ian Webb, a leading Ulster businessman, who is chairman of the general committee. The other four members are Gordon Jeffrey, a retired Liverpool lawyer who made his name by his skilful handling of the R and A's case during the dispute with Ping; Richard Cole-Hamilton, a former chief executive of the Clydesdale Bank and former chairman of Stakis Hotels; Dr David Marsh, a former Walker Cup player who is now a part-time occupational health physician on Merseyside; and Neil Crichton, a solicitor, and auditor of the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

These are the men who are planning for the day when, for the first time for nearly 50 years, the name Bonallack will not ring out in golf. You cannot go anywhere in the world without meeting someone who knows, has played with or against Bonallack or sat on a committee with him.

He has said that his swing resembles that of "a drunk shovelling coal" but he won five English Amateur and five British Amateur titles and competed in nine Walker Cup teams, being the playing captain of the one that won at St Andrews in 1971.

Two weeks ago, he was playing in a pro-am tournament with Ernie Els at Stellenbosch, near Cape Town. Last week, he was in Kenya. He will be off to the US for the Players' Championship in March and will act as a referee at the Masters in April. Woe betide any player who thinks they can intimidate him into giving them a free drop.

Seve Ballesteros did precisely this a few years ago when his ball ended in an iffy lie and he called for a ruling. The moment that Bonallack's buggy hove into sight, with Bonallack wearing a blazer, his head covered by a baseball cap, Ballesteros probably knew he had no chance. He stated his case. Bonallack, who has known the odd bad lie in his time, listened unimpressed and then said, correctly and curtly: "Play it."

The man who brought Michael Bonallack to St Andrews is Colin Maclaine, a



Bonallack: bowing out

retired dentist from Lytham St Annes, and one of few Britons who are members of Augusta National. Maclaine, a past captain of the R and A, has recounted the story of how he persuaded Bonallack to take the job when they were sharing a taxi.

"There were 285 applicants and I whittled it down to 16. When we got down to the last four, they all went to be tested by an industrial psychologist. I still have the report on Michael somewhere. I remember the chap said that we should not be put off by his laid-back manner. He said that Michael would open his eyes wide enough to solve the problem in front of him and then go back to sleep again."

Applicants to succeed him include former international players, administrators and businessmen who play golf. It had been thought that the R and A might take this opportunity to make a root and branch change, but after a review three years ago this is not likely.

"The R and A is a highly efficient, tightly run organisation and that is good," Frank Hannigan, Fay's predecessor at the USGA, said. "The R and A has a staff of what, 30? I think it is wonderful. If Michael has been responsible for curbing the growth of bureaucracy, then God bless him."

Langer's clanger gives Long title

BERNHARD LANGER, of Germany, had a triple bogey at the last hole to hand the Greg Norman International to Michael Long, of New Zealand, at The Lakes in Sydney yesterday.

Langer, who was seeking his first victory for 15 months, stood at ten under par with the 18th to play but hit his tee shot into a bunker. His second shot went over the green and then he chipped short. Langer was penalised a stroke for bumping his marker and needed two putts.

Langer finished with 80 for a seven under par total, while Long's final round of 72 had him at nine under par on 283.

Langer slipped to third place in the $640,000 (around £400,000) tournament with Michael Campbell, of New Zealand, second on eight under par. Long had started the day in fifth place, six shots behind Langer.

In the Malaysian Open, Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, missed a two-foot putt in Kuala Lumpur that cost him more than $17,500 (around £11,000). Rather than finishing in joint second place with Alex Cejka, of Germany, and Bob May, of the United States, Harrington was in a five-way tie for fourth and instead of earning $33,981 (around £21,000), he collected $16,434 (£10,000). Gerry Norquist, of the US, won the event.

"A spectator clicked a camera as I putted, but it's my fault for hearing it," he said. "I'm just disgusted. I lost concentration. It was harder to miss it than hole it."

RACING: DRESS REHEARSAL GOES ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPT FOR CHELTENHAM HOPEFULS

Florida Pearl has world as his oyster

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT, AT LEOPARDSTOWN

AN ADVERTISEMENT for the Samaritans, offering a 24 hours a day service for people in crisis, was tagged ominously onto the Leopardstown racecard published in a Dublin newspaper yesterday. As events turned out, with Ireland's best Cheltenham Festival hopes completing a successful dress rehearsal, it might have been better placed alongside the report detailing the nation's latest rugby woes.

Indeed, far from feeling desperate, upwards of 20,000 Irish racegoers left here with their heads held high after seeing four odds-on favourities oblige, dreaming of what might be next month at Prestbury Park

The continuing revival in Irish fortunes at National Hunt's premier meeting is taken for granted. More important, what now is on offer is the prospect of another genuine star in the shape of Florida Pearl, who has the opportunity to join the list of Festival legends, headed by Arkle.

After his unexpected fall from grace on his seasonal reappearance here over Christmas, the confidence in the Willie Mullins-trained seven-year-old remained intact yesterday, as he was sent off 15-8 on favourite for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. Backers hardly had a nervous moment as he jumped with confidence and made only one minor error, four fences from home.

Richard Dunwoody, who had anchored Florida Pearl towards the rear of the field until that small blip, then allowed him to stride up towards the leaders and jump the third last in front. Travelling sweetly in the lead, he looked likely to run away from his rivals, but Escartefigue battled on gamely under a hard ride from Richard Johnson — which earned him a three-day riding ban for whip abuse — to finish only two lengths adrift at the line.

Teeton Mill beat David Nicholson's runner by six lengths in the King George VI Chase at Kempton, but Florida Pearl's style of racing almost certainly means he is never going to win by a big distance. Yesterday's winning margin does not do him justice and a stronger gallop at Cheltenham will be to his benefit.

The smile on the face of Dunwoody as fellow jockeys congratulated him suggested he knows another Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup is his for the taking — and that is a view shared by the layers. The sponsor makes him 5-2 favourite, while Coral is shortest at 9-4.

The way Florida Pearl idled in front prompted some doubt as to whether he will truly stay the extended 3¼-mile trip at Cheltenham, but Mullins has no fears on that score. "Don't forget when he first ran at Cheltenham two years ago we were not sure whether to run him in the four-mile chase or the bumper."

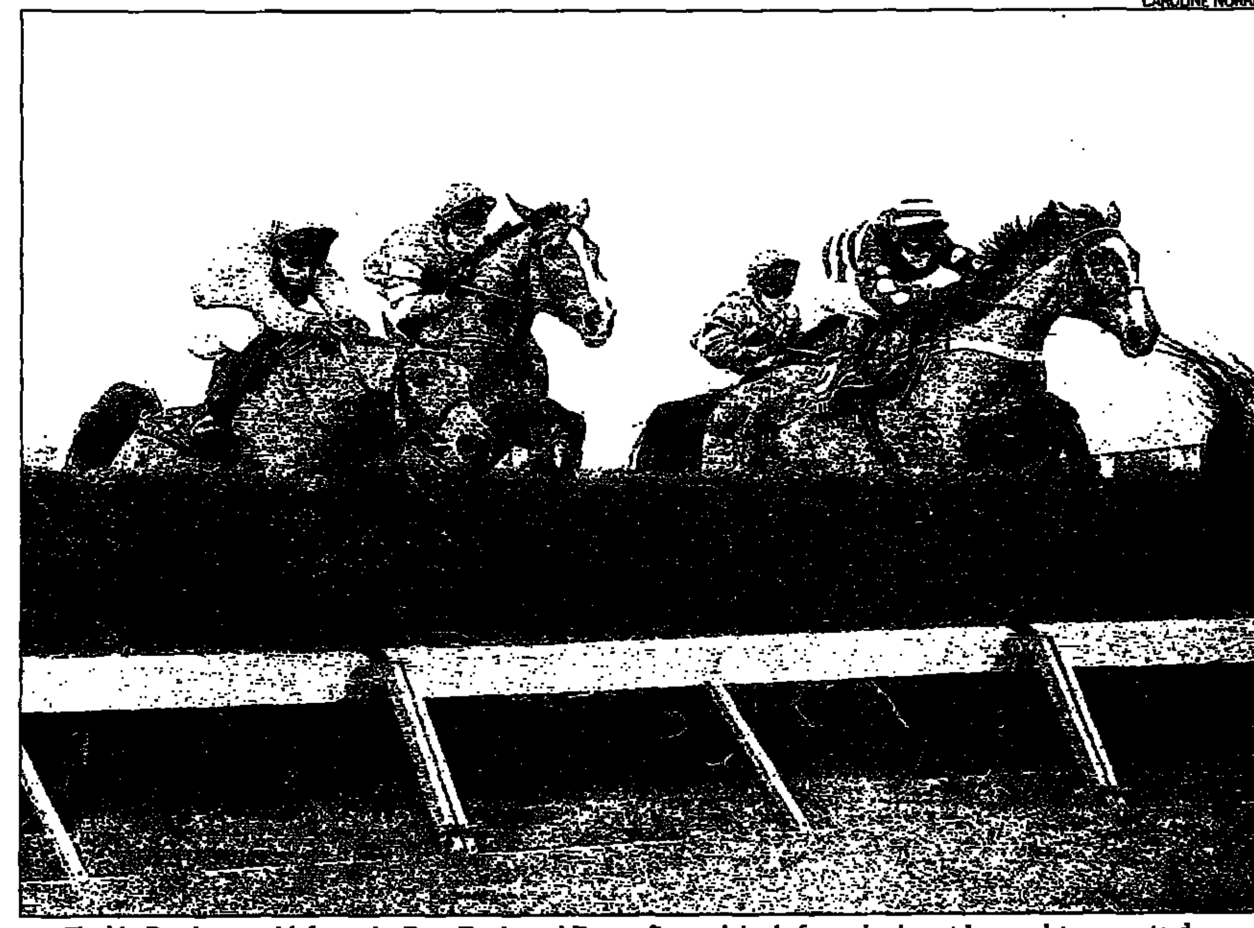
Florida Pearl's win capped an impressive day for Festival-bound runners, which went uncannily to script. Knife Edge maintained his unbeaten record over timber when landing a slowly-run Spring Juvenile Hurdle and is generally 10-1 third favourite for the Triumph. "He will be a better horse in a truly-run race and whatever passes him up the hill at Cheltenham will win the Triumph," Michael O'Brien, trainer of the 6-4 on favourite said.

Alexander Banquet, winner of the Cheltenham bumper last season, showed admirable battling qualities to maintain his unbeaten record in the Deloitte and Touche Novice Hurdle, although his hurdling was far from foot-perfect. Willie Mullins's runner is 5-1 second favourite behind Barton for the Royal & SunAlliance Hurdle.

However, the most impressive display was produced by Nick Dundee, who is now as short as 7-4 for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase — and only 12-1 for next year's Cheltenham Gold Cup — after a faultless round of jumping in the Dr P. J. Moriarty Novice Chase. "He is the best novice chaser I have ever had," Edward O'Grady, winner of 15 Festival races, said.

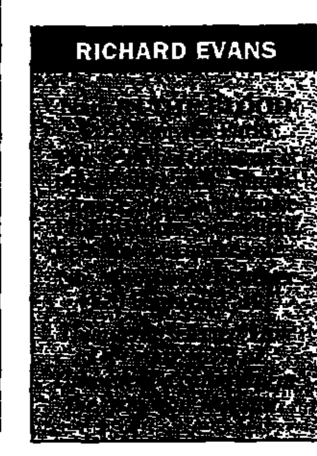
The victory of Limestone Lad under a big weight in a competitive handicap served to underline the Stayers' Hurdle credentials of Le Coudray, who hammered yesterday's winner by 20 lengths recently. At around 5-1 for Cheltenham, the J. P. McManus-owned hurdler looks a solid bet.

CAROLINE NORRIS



Florida Pearl, second left, tracks Boss Doyle and Escartefique, right, before winning at Leopardstown yesterday

RICHARD EVANS



BIG-RACE DETAILS

3.40 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (Grade 1: £59,500: 3m)

1, FLORIDA PEARL (R Dunwoody) (8-15 fav) **2, Escartefigue** (R Johnson) (100-30) **3, Addington Boy** (A Maguire) (33-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Bob Treacy (5th), 25 Papillon (4th), 100 Buck Rogers (6th) DNF: 10 Boss Doyle (pulled up). 7 Ran. 2l. Dist, 4 ½l, Dist, Dist. W P Mullins at Bagenalstown, Co Carlow. Tote: £1.30, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.41

Moving Earth grounded

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

CHELTENHAM seems certain to be without the precocious talents of Moving Earth after the six-year-old was beaten in the men's open at Wadebridge on Saturday.

Sorrel Hill (7-4), who won by 20 lengths, inflicted the defeat as rider Les Jefford enjoyed an afternoon of treble delight. Moving Earth finished second and still needs to win two open races before the end of the month to qualify for the Festival. His trainer, Richard Barber, admitted yesterday that the defeat had effectively ended the challenge.

"I haven't spoken to the horse's owner (Roger Penny), but my own view is that we won't be going to Cheltenham," Barber said. "He didn't act on the track and pulled for his head all the way. We had to be at our best to beat Sorrel Hill.

"Moving Earth is still as weak as a robin and needs another year — he has had a cough and we were forced to do a month's work in a fortnight. Now, I'd prefer to go the proper route and aim him for an intermediate. He can go chasing next year."

Meanwhile, Jefford found himself joint-top of the men's championship on Saturday evening after his treble took him level with Ben Pollock and Paul Hacking. Jefford also won on Tasmin Tyrant (4-6) and River Ferdinand (3-1) — all three winners are trained by Caroline Egalton at Ottery St Mary.

At the **Vale of Clettwr** fixture, the first of the season in Wales, Pip Jones rode three winners — Icenfriendly (2-1), Dawn's Cognac (4-5) and Mr Dow Jones (5-2) — and Jamie Jukes partnered a double on Dyffryn Prince (2-1) and Circuit Breaker (5-2).

Paul Hacking landed a double at the **Mid-Surrey Farmers' Draghounds** meeting on Primitive King (2-1) and Sunczech (4-6). Hacking, who works as assistant trainer to Gardie Grissell, finished alone in the intermediate on Primitive King. Only three ran and the odds-on favourite, Logical Step, ran out at the fourth-last when upsides the winner.

Hacking then gave highly-strung Sunczech, trained by Grissell's wife, Di, an exemplary ride in the closing maiden race. Sunczech barely stays three miles and Hacking held her up in midfield before moving to the lead on the final circuit. Tom Hills won the men's open on Call Home (4-1) and Gi D'Angibau enjoyed a fluent ride on Cracking Idea (3-1) in the ladies' race.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.10 Gaelic Blue. 2.40 Mithraic. 3.10 Master Nova. 3.40 Smiddy Lad. 4.10 Dan De Man. 4.40 Cuchulainn.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 GOSFORTH DECORATING AND BUILDING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,908: 3m) (7 runners)

1 P12P PUREVALUE 53 (BF,CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 8-11-12 P Niven 118
2 13PF GAELIC BLUE 53 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-2 S Durack 107
3 6P00 BAYLINE STAR 16 (S) Miss S Bades 9-10-6 Gary Lyons 133
4 F0U1 BLAZING DAWN 17 (C,F,G,S) J Hubbuck 12-10-5 B Storey 114
5 0P54 MAYBE O'GRADY 53 (CD,F,G,S) W Cunningham 10-10-0 N Smith 101
6 -PFP SHINING FOUNTAIN 63 (D,G,S) D M Forster 10-10-0 R McGrath 44
7 4040 HEAVENLY CITIZEN 17 (D,F,S) J Gledson 11-10-0 K Johnson 116

2-1 Purevalue, 5-2 Gaelic Blue, 4-1 Blazing Dawn, 6-1 Maybe O Grady, 12-1 Bayline Star, 16-1 Shining Fountain, Heavenly Citizen

2.40 KIDD & SPOOR HARPER CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,574: 2m) (10)

1 -4P0 MITHRAIC 81 (CD,F,G) W Cunningham 7-11-10 R McGrath 104
2 26-6 WESTERN GENERAL 39 Miss F Milligan 8-11-3 S Durack 72
3 -065 IBN MASIRAH 32 (B,D,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2 M H Naughton (3) 90
4 44-2 COURT JOKER 16 (G) H Alexander 7-11-1 L Cooper (5) 68
5 031P JAGO 25 (B,D,S) M W Easterby 4-10-9 C McCormack 80
6 0201 OAKBURY 44 (F,G,S) Miss L Siddall 7-10-7 T Siddall 84
7 4-00 SERENADE 38 P Spottiswood 5-10-5 N Horrocks –
8 0-03 FORTUNE HOPPER 24 (G) Mrs G Sever 5-10-4 T Hagger (5) 43
9 PPO MOON QUEST 38 F Murtagh 4-10-0 G Lee –
10 0000 OVER STATED 102 I Park 9-10-0 N Hannity 50

[illegible]

3.10 STEPHEN EASTEN NOVICES CHASE (£3,323: 3m) (6)

1 2521 CASTLETOWN COUNT 16 (D,G,S) M W Easterby 7-11-10 C McCormack (3) 89
2 -P1F HOUSE CAPTAIN 69 (BF,D,G,S) J FitzGerald 10-11-10 R Garritty 102
3 -314 MASTER NOVA 21 (B,CD,S) Miss J A Camacho 9-11-10 P Niven 86
4 52 I'M A BARGAIN 55 N Richards 7-11-4 A Dobbin 74
5 P5P6 OUDALL CROSSETT 25 E Cane 14-11-4 Gary Lyons 57
6 4030 THE OTHER MAN 10 Miss L Siddall 9-11-4 T Siddall (5) 62

5-4 House Captain, 2-1 I'm A Bargain, 4-1 Master Nova, 7-2 Castletown Count, 20-1 The Other Man, 100-1 Oudall Crossett

3.40 NORTHERN IMAGE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,460: 2m 4f) (16)

1 4P0P LIVIO 6 (B,CD,F,G,S) A Dicken 8-11-10 A Dobbin 22
2 0034 FIVE FLAGS 23 (D,G,S) Mrs S Smith 11-11-3 R Wilkinson (5) 117
3 5232 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT 32 H Alexander 6-11-1 N Horrocks (5) 97
4 1P-4 SWANDALE FLYER 21F (G) N Bycroft 7-11-0 B Grattan (3) 85
5 3235 EXALTED 17 (F) T Cuthbert 6-10-13 B Harding 87
6 050- ADARAMANN 284F (S) I Emmerson 7-10-12 J Supple –
7 01U2 PONTEVEDRA 33 (F,G) K Morgan 6-10-11 A S Smith 101
8 -426 WYNYARD LADY 21 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-10 P Niven 97
9 25P4 LEAP IN THE DARK 9 (D,F,S) Miss L Siddall 10-10-10 T Siddall (5) 57
10 4-FP SMIDDY LAD 7 R Shiels 8-10-7 B Storey 40
11 0/60 KEMO SABO 94 (C,G) A Whillans 7-10-6 C McCormack (3) 55
12 1530 JACK FLUSH 3 (G) B Rothwell 5-10-4 R Supple 32
13 -PP4 DOCKMASTER 90 (V,C,G,S) Miss K Milligan 8-10-3 S Durack 113
14 1F22 STRAFFAN GOLD 44 (B,BF,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-0 Mr A Dempsey (3) 100
15 0F-P FUTURE'S TRADER 91 M Hammond 6-10-0 D Bentley 48
16 0600 REBEL KING 74 (D,F,G) M Barnes 9-10-0 S Taylor 42

7-2 Straffan Gold, 11-2 Pontevedra, 6-1 Golden Thunderbolt, 7-1 Wynyard Lady, 8-1 Five Flags, Swandale Flyer, 10-1 Jack Flush, 12-1 others.

4.10 TOWN & COUNTRY BARS NOVICES CHASE (£3,241: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 3312 FILS DE CRESSON 21 (BF,D,S) J Adam 9-11-10 B Powell 101
2 63F4 CLAVERING 14 E Cane 9-11-3 Gary Lyons 93
3 1123 DAN DE MAN 10 (D,G,S) Miss L Siddall 8-11-3 A Dobbin 120
4 -005 FRYUP SATELLITE 21 (G) Mrs J Brown 8-11-3 Mrs C Ford 87
5 PPFP SUL FOSSO 44 Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 R Wilkinson (5) –
6 30-3 STORM CALL 17 (D,S) D Whillans 8-10-12 B Harding –
7 0600 NORTHERN FLASH 54 J Haynes 5-10-8 C McCormack (3) –

10-11 Dan De Man, 9-4 Fils De Cresson, 7-1 Fryup Satellite, Storm Call, 20-1 Clavering, 50-1 Sul Fosso, Northern Flash

4.40 NORTHERN RACING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,871: 2m) (13)

1 4104 NOSHINANNIKIN 59 (C,S) M W Easterby 5-11-10 C McCormack (3) 89
2 546F CARBONADO 74 T Tate 5-11-4 R Garritty –
3 0-55 CARTOFT DANCER 23 T Easterby 6-11-4 P Niven –
4 05 CHEVALIER ERRANT 21 J Adam 6-11-4 B Powell 56
5 F CUCHULAINN 21 N Richards 7-11-4 A Dobbin –
6 0045 CURTAINSATCHOPWELL 44 T Easterby 5-11-4 J Callaghan 46
7 0-0 FRYUP VISION 21 Mrs J Brown 5-11-4 G Lee –
8 R60- GUS CUNNINGHAM 269 (S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 Mr A Dempsey (3) 16
9 0- NORTH MOSS 422 M Barnes 6-11-4 S Taylor –
10 430 STRONG SPRAY 62 Mrs S Smith 6-11-4 S Durack –
11 0-P WRANGEL 41 J FitzGerald 5-11-4 B Harding –
12 00- LADY FOR PLEASURE 349 W Cunningham 7-10-13 N Smith –
13 4F4 SUPREME TARGET 17 J Charlton 7-10-13 B Storey 47

5-2 Chevalier Errant, 11-4 Cuchulainn, 6-1 Noshinannikin, 9-1 Gus Cunningham, 10-1 Supreme Target, 14-1 Carbonado, Cartoft Dancer, 16-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fontwell Park: 3.20 Red River. Newcastle: 3.10 Master Nova, 3.40 Dockmaster, Livio. Southwell: 1.30 Lake Aria, 3.30 Counsel

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good

1.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Zapateado** (C Llewellyn, 8-1); 2, Mother's Help (100-30); 3, Tommy Carson (11-2). River Bear (4th) 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 4l, 4l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £7.90; £2.00, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £16.40. CSF: £31.05.

1.55 (2m ch) 1, **Edredon Bleu** (A P McCoy, 9-4 fav); 2, Manorvie Manning (11-4); 3, Arrabranch (5-2). 4 ran. 9l, 1½l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.60. DF: £3.60. CSF: £7.34.

2.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Door To Door** (G Bradley, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Russell Road (9-2); 3, [illegible] (50-1). [illegible] (4th) 7-2 jt-fav. 13 ran. 4l, 9l. S Sherwood. Tote: £4.40; £1.70, £2.20, £8.60. DF: £8.10. CSF: £17.96.

3.05 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Hoh Express** (J Culloty, 11-4 fav); 2, No Retreat (3-1); 3, Bank Avenue (16-1). 9 ran. NR: Kuakka. [illegible] P Webber. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £8.20. CSF: £10.60.

3.35 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Clever Remark** (T J Murphy, 5-1); 2, Nahthen Lad (12-1); 3, King Lucifer (7-2). Torduff Express (4th) 9-4 fav. 6 ran. 9l, 6l. J Old. Tote: £6.20; £2.30, £2.80. DF: £27.30. CSF: £47.52.

4.10 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Teaatral** (D Gallagher, 8-1); 2, Just Nic (14-1); 3, Melody Maid (15-2). Moondigua 7-1 fav. 13 ran. 3½l, 7l. C Egerton. Tote: £10.00; £3.00, £2.90, £2.90. DF: £54.10. Trifecta: £706.10. CSF: £111.36. Tricast: £824.21.

4.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Midnight Legend** (R Johnson, 6-4 fav); 2, Master Beveled (9-4); 3, Juyush (7-2). 5 ran. Sh hd, 6l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.08.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £24,016.85 carried forward to Fontwell Park today). Placepot: £299.20. Quadpot: £55.50.

Uttoxeter

12.45 1, **Shore Party** (25-1); 2, Scoiton Green (9-1); 3, Ardent Scout (20-1). Annie Buckers 7-2 fav. 9 ran.

1.15 1, **Kates Charm** (9-2 fav); 2, Ebullient Equiname (5-1); 3, Galant Moss (10-1). 11 ran. NR: Aboo Hom.

1.45 1, **Him Of Praise** (12-1); 2, Fiddling The Facts (11-4 fav); 3, Forest Ivory (5-1). 9 ran.

2.20 1, **Tremallt** (9-4 fav); 2, Scrahan Cross (5-2); 3, Rollander (9-1). 6 ran.

2.50 1, **Buck's Palace** (3-1); 2, Lady of Gortmerron (11-4 fav); 3, Stewarts Pride (11-2). 9 ran. NR: Rosin Boy.

3.25 1, **Just Jasmine** (7-2 jt-fav); 2, Hurst Flyer (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Miss Rosenhall (9-1). 8 ran. NR: Pearl's Choice.

3.55 1, **Ricardo** (10-1); 2, Carmus (4-1); 3, Eoin Alley (66-1). Approvance 7-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Molot, Moving Arrow.

Wetherby

1.20 1, **Birkdale** (7-4 fav); 2, For Cathal (5-1); 3, Coal Spring (9-2). 5 ran.

1.50 1, **Niki Dee** (6-5 fav); 2, Bankor Court (11-8); 3, Royal Samurai (9-1). 8 ran.

2.25 1, **The Brewmaster** (5-2 fav); 2, Once More For Luck (7-2); 3, Eponine (4-1). 5 ran.

2.55 1, **Konvekta King** (9-2); 2, Cumbrian Challenge (6-4 fav); 3, Celestial Choir (2-1). 6 ran.

3.30 1, **Tonoco** (4-1); 2, Crazy Horse (13-8 fav); 3, Go Bodily (11-4). 6 ran.

4.00 1, **Mr Branigan** (13-8); 2, Silver Stick (5-1); 3, Highlandman (20-1). Last Option 6-4 fav. 6 ran.

4.35 1, **Head For The Hills** (5-1 fav); 2, Mister Graham (6-1); 3, Simple Tone (33-1). 17 ran.

Lingfield Park

1.10 1, **Katie's Cracker** (7-2); 2, Modest Hope (10-1); 3, Artic Courier (2-1 fav). 10 ran.

1.40 1, **Magic Arrow** (5-1); 2, Ropelila (25-1); 3, Nadisha (2-1 jt-fav). Brull Stream 2-1 jt-fav. 12 ran.

2.15 1, **Muhandis** (13-8 fav); 2, Sir Walter (9-4); 3, Keepsake (5-1). 8 ran. NR: The Silk Thief.

2.45 1, **Shabaash** (9-4); 2, Red Venus (5-4 fav); 3, Mispmt (9-1). 8 ran.

3.20 1, **Hormuz** (7-2); 2, Azhaam (25-1); 3, An Executive Do (7-1). Lincoln Dean 2-1 fav. 8 ran.

3.50 1, **Welville** (14-1); 2, Topton (9-2); 3, Vasari (14-1). Hyde Park 5-2 jt-fav. 8 ran.

4.25 1, **Roisin Splendour** (5-1); 2, Acid Test (9-2); 3, Mumtoon (4-1 fav). 11 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, **Premier Dance** (11-4 fav); 2, Bapsford (7-1); 3, Two On The Bridge (12-1). 11 ran.

7.25 1, **Nikita's Star** (11-2); 2, Ronquista d'Or (10-3); 3, Caernarfon Bay (11-4 fav). 9 ran. NR: Bay Box Purvoe.

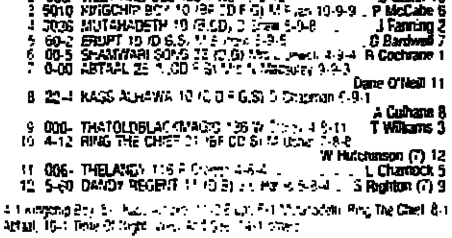
7.50 1, **Krystal Max** (7-2); 2, Samwar (3-1); 3, Rennyholme (50-1). Pride of Brixton 2-1 fav. 7 ran.

8.15 1, **Royal Cascade** (5-1); 2, Mukarrab (7-2 fav); 3, Unshaken (5-1). 10 ran.

8.45 1, **Naked Oat** (6-1); 2, The Last Word (14-1); 3, Scarlet Sceptre (6-5 fav). 10 ran.

9.15 1, **Manileno** (4-6 fav); 2, Infamous (15-8); 3, Formidable Flame (25-1). 7 ran.

9.45 1, **High Noon** (15-8 fav); 2, Arasih (5-1); 3, Ai Chi Saga (10-1). 11 ran.



NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS JOCKEYS

SOUTHWELL



THUNDERER

1.30 Titta Ruffo. 2.00 Mutahadeth. 2.30 Locomotion. 3.00 Godmersham Park. 3.30 King Priam. 4.00 Grand Chapeau. 4.30 Far Cry.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.30 MACKENZIE HANDICAP (Div I: £1,945: 7f) (13 runners)

1 -403 ELITE HOPE 12 (D,G) [illegible] 7-10-2 G Carter 5
2 00-6 TITTA RUFFO 21 (B,F,G) D Shaw 5-9-12 J Fanning 3
3 056- HAWA AL NASAMAAT 214 (F) [illegible] 7-9-9 R Farmer (7) 2
4 -512 FAYM 12 (D) Miss S Wynne 5-9-7 C Carver (7) 11
5 -210 MUTABARI 12 (CD) [illegible] 5-9-6 J Quinn 4
6 1-34 DAHLIDYA 14 (G) [illegible] 4-9-5 P Doe (5) 10
7 00-0 SHONTAINE 23 (B,CD,F,G) M Johnston 6-9-4 Dean McKeown 12
8 16-0 DEKELSMARY 21 (CD) J Balding 4-9-1 J Edmunds 9
9 0-01 THE BARNSLEY BELLE 7 (CD) G Woodward 6-8-10 (6ex) R Lappin 7
10 -052 SCINTILLATING SOUND 5 S Bowring 4-8-8 C Teague (3) 8
11 250- DR WOODSTOCK 21 [illegible] 5-8-6 T Williams 1
12 00-0 LAKE ARIA 2 (B) J Bosley 6-7-10 D Young (7) 6
13 00-0 JOCKWEILER 20 (B) D Chapman 4-7-10 L Charnock 13

7-2 Dahlidya, 4-1 The Barnsley Belle, 11-2 Faym, 7-1 Titta Ruffo, 8-1 Mutabari, 10-1 Scintillating Sound, 12-1 Elite Hope, Shontaine, 14-1 others

2.00 MACKENZIE HANDICAP (Div II: £1,945: 7f) (12)

1 4-40 TIME OF NIGHT 10 (CD) [illegible] 6-9-12 C Lowther 4
2 000- WEET AND SEE 18J [illegible] 5-9-12 J Quinn 10
3 5010 KINGCHIP BOY 10 (BF,CD,F,G) M Ryan 10-9-9 P McCabe 6
4 3026 MUTAHADETH 10 (B,CD) D Shaw 5-9-8 J Fanning 2
5 60-2 ERUPT 10 (D,G,S) [illegible] 6-9-5 G Bardwell 7
6 00-5 SHAMWARI SONG 23 (C,G) Mrs L [illegible] 4-9-4 R Cochrane 1
7 0-00 ABTAAL 25 (B,CD,F,S) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-3 Dane O'Neill 11
8 22-4 KASS ALHAWA 10 (C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-1 A Culhane 8
9 000- THATOLDBLACKMAGIC 136 [illegible] 4-8-11 T Williams 3
10 4-12 RING THE CHIEF 21 (BF,CD,S) M Usher 7-8-8 W Hutchinson (7) 12
11 006- THELANGY 116 [illegible] 4-8-4 L Charnock 5
12 5-60 DANDY REGENT 11 (D,S) [illegible] 5-8-4 S Righton (7) 9

4-1 Kingchip Boy, [illegible] Ring The Chief, 8-1 Abtaal, 10-1 Time Of Night, [illegible] others

3.30 AMAZON HANDICAP (£3,009: 1m 3f) (15)

1 0-41 DICK TURPIN 14 (CD) B Smart 5-10-0 P Goode (7) 9
2 2324 KING PRIAM 5 (B,BF,G) M Polglase 4-9-12 R Price 7
3 1511 COPPER SHELL 10 (CD) Mrs L Jewell 5-9-9 R Cochrane 11
4 140- DOMINO FLYER 89J (C,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-6 N Day 10
5 64-1 MAGICAL SHOT 19 D Carroll 4-9-6 R FitzPatrick (5) 14
6 000- BLACK WEASEL 125 (G) Miss J Craze 4-9-2 S Webster 13
7 002- YES KEEMO SABEE 69 D Shaw 4-9-0 L Newton 12
8 30-0 DONNA'S DOUBLE 28 (G,S) D Eddy 4-8-8 G Pears 2
9 4-50 ALDWYCH ARROW 14 (F,S) M A Buckley 4-8-7 A Culhane 3
10 /00- KEEN COMPANION 59 T Naughton 6-8-5 T Sprake 1
11 000- ALMOHAD 40 (S) Dr J Scargill 4-8-1 J Quinn 15
12 0-00 COUNSEL 2 (B) D Chapman 4-7-10 P Fessey 5
13 000- SECOND TERM 41J W Storey 4-7-10 L Charnock 6
14 /6-0 RACING TELEGRAPH 37 (G) M Brittain 9-7-10 G Bardwell 4
15 3000 LIGHTNING REBEL 10 P Hiatt 5-7-10 Joanna Badger (7) 8

7-2 King Priam, 4-1 Magical Shot, 9-2 Copper Shell, 6-1 Dick Turpin, 10-1 Domino Flyer, Aldwych Arrow, 12-1 Donna's Double, 14-1 others.

4.00 RIO GRANDE SELLING STAKES (£1,839: 6f) (10)

1 0-00 ABOVE BOARD 7 R Marvin 4-9-9 S Righton (7) 4
2 5-00 BOFFY 2 (C,D,F,G) B Baugh 6-9-9 Iona Wands (5) 2
3 -406 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 7 (CD) R Hollinshead 8-9-9 P M Quinn (7) 10
4 00-0 FAST FRANC 11 (CD,S) T Naughton 4-9-9 T Sprake 9
5 0000 GRAND CHAPEAU 7 (BF,D,F,G) D Nicholls 7-9-9 Alex Greaves 5
6 0-26 ICE AGE 14 (B,CD,F) R Williams 5-9-9 J Quinn 7
7 00-0 KOMASEPH 35 (CD) R Marvin 7-9-9 T G McLaughlin 3
8 -443 MOST RESPECTFUL 14 (CD,F) N Tinkler 6-9-9 Kim Tinkler 1
9 423- ROCK ISLAND LINE 178 (C,F,S) G Woodward 5-9-9 P Roberts 6
10 33-3 EWENNY 10 (G) J Eustace 3-8-3 J Tate 8

2-1 Grand Chapeau, 4-1 Ewenny, 5-1 Ice Age, 8-1 Bold Aristocrat, Rock Island Line, 10-1 Fast Franc, Most Respectful, 20-1 others.

4.30 NILE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,132: 2m) (10)

1 -111 SUDEST 16 (D,F) I Balding 5-11-7 P Flynn (5) 8
2 111- FAR CRY 52 (C) M Prescott 4-10-9 C Vigors 7
3 -144 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 7 (CD,S) J Eyre 6-10-9 Miss D Jones 6
4 5-15 PARADISE NAVY 20 (B,C,D,F,G) C Egerton 10-10-4 A Bradley (5) 9
5 0-10 POKER SCHOOL 14 (C,G) M R Bosley 5-10-2 Mrs S Bosley 1
6 0-51 VINCENT 10 (G) J L Harris 4-9-4 Mrs M Morris (3) 5
7 40-4 MAJOR'S LAW 30 (S) R Simpson 10-9-4 Miss L Vollaro (7) 2
8 0-33 GOLD BLADE 10 (C,F,G) J Pearce 10-9-3 Mrs L Pearce 3

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

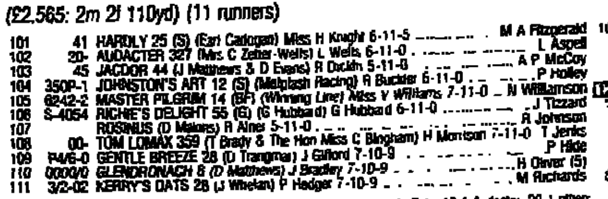
1.50 Master Pilgrim
2.20 In The Blood
2.50 Tylo Steamer
3.20 Jocks Cross
3.50 KRABLOONIK (nap)
4.20 Moorland Highflyer
4.50 St Mellion Wood

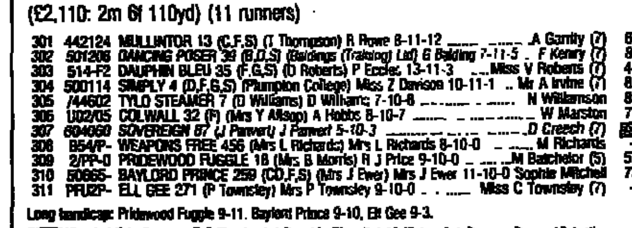
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.20 MINELLA DERBY.

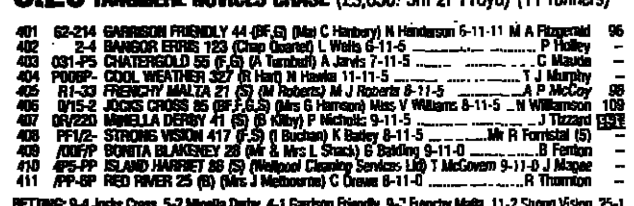
GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

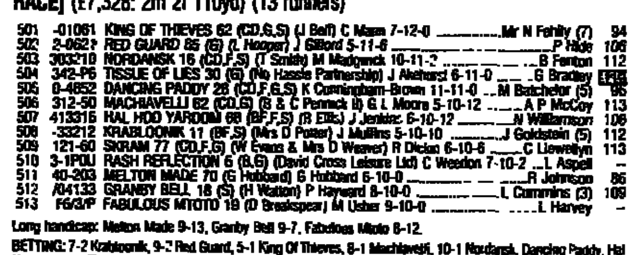
1.50 EBF CHICHESTER NH NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (£2,565: 2m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

101 41 HARDLY 25 (S) (Earl Cadogan) Miss H Knight 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 106
102 20- AUDACTER 327 (Mrs C Zetter-Wells) L Wells 6-11-0 L Aspell –
103 45 JACDOR 44 (J Matthews & D Evans) R Dickin 5-11-0 A P McCoy –
104 350P-1 JOHNSTON'S ART 12 (S) (Melplash Racing) R Buckler 6-11-0 P Holley –
105 6242-2 MASTER PILGRIM 14 (BF) (Winning Line) Miss V Williams 7-11-0 N Williamson 123
106 S-4054 RICHIE'S DELIGHT 55 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-0 J Tizzard 50
107 ROSINUS (D Malone) R Alner 5-11-0 R Johnson –
108 00- TOM LOMAX 359 (T Brady & The Hon Miss C Bingham) H Morrison 7-11-0 T Jenks –
109 P4/6-0 GENTLE BREEZE 28 (D Trangmar) J Gifford 7-10-9 P Hide –
110 0000/0 GLENDRONACH 8 (D Matthews) J Bradley 7-10-9 H Oliver (5) –
111 3/2-02 KERRY'S OATS 28 (J Whelan) P Hedger 7-10-9 M Richards 87

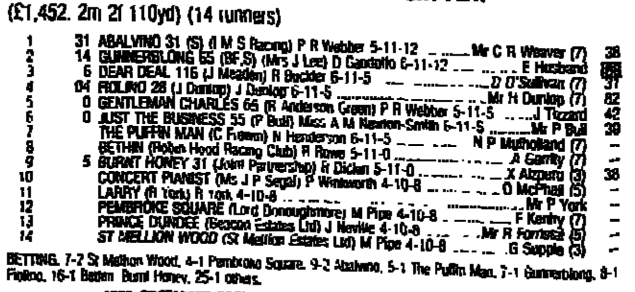








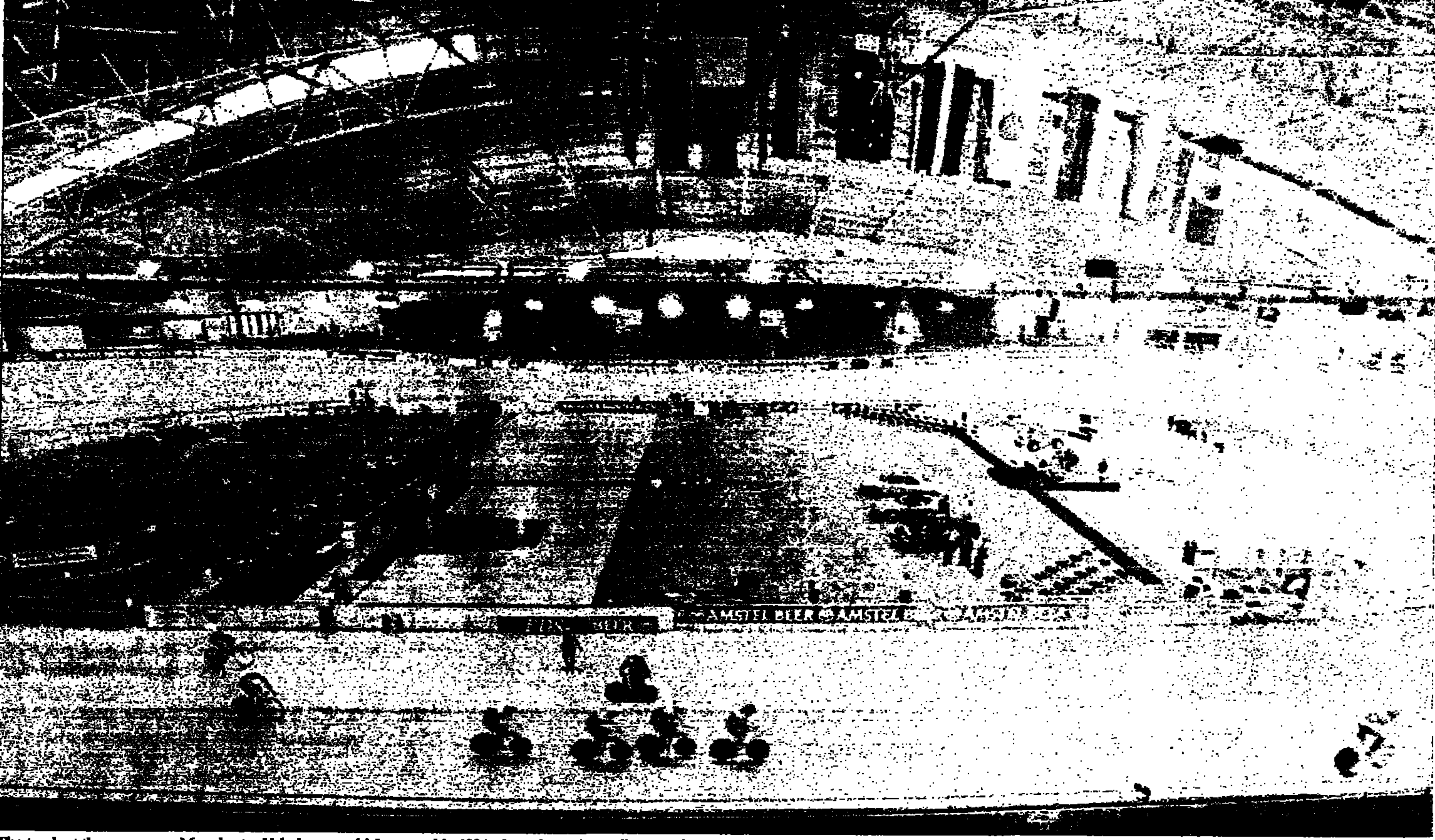




Mark Sharon makes tracks for the Manchester Velodrome, where cycling can be an uphill task







The track at the cavernous Manchester Velodrome, which opened in 1994, rises above the cyclists at a frightening angle, but it is one of the best venues and a setting for Boardman's world hour record two years later

Learning to make the gradient

Manchester does not have weather, it suffers it. That is why the Manchester Velodrome has a roof. It prevents the sort of downpour that soaked me when I arrived for my first session, from turning the world's fastest cycle track into a swimming pool.

As roofs go, the Velodrome's actually is quite beautiful. From the outside, its great curved profile sits like the shell of an enormous metallic turtle, but as I approached, I realised that it was really an altar on which I could be about to sacrifice my dignity — or worse.

Inside, it is cavernous. Certainly television can never do justice to the 250-metre sweep of track. I expected something like the "wall of death", but actually it is shaped like the brim of a Stetson with the narrow ends turned up.

It is the angle of the banking that takes your breath away. From the bottom, the slope rears above you, 42 degrees of rubber-streaked Siberian pine at its steepest, dropping to 12½ degrees along the sides. The surface is too smooth to be able to climb to the top unless you have crampons. It is one of the world's newest and finest track venues and, since it opened in 1994, the Velodrome has seen a number of high-profile records tumble.

Track cycling is the purest form of the sport, but always has been a remote world, populated by people with enormous thighs. I could have gone easily to my grave never having ridden the track, but for an invitation to Manchester from Tim Lawson, director of Science in Sport (SIS), the sports nutrition manufacturer.

"Many top cyclists and sports journalists have never even seen a track, so we want to get them down for some lessons with the professionals and then have a few races to get a real flavour for it," Lawson said. I was booking my train ticket almost before he had finished the bit about beers and curry to follow. SIS has sponsored many of Britain's top cyclists, on and off the track, for several years, including mountain bikers, BMX-ers and those maniacs, the downhillers. Their most famous rider, though, is Chris Boardman, who has had some of his greatest rides at Manchester, including his 1996 world hour record of 56.375km.

About 100 of us had accepted the invitation. At the trackside, we were placed in the hands of Gary Bamber, who introduced us to the tool of the trade — the bike.

A track bike is a thing of engineering beauty. Perfectly proportioned, seemingly fragile but utterly impractical for everyday use, they can be costly, too. The likes of Boardman ride things that cost the same as a motorbike, but by weighing 16lb or less actually are worth, pound for pound, more than a Ferrari. Yet it still has only a single fixed gear and no brakes. I must have been insane.

You can pretend that you are within the bounds of normality up to the second that you leave the safety of the handrail. You are sitting on a saddle, holding onto handlebars and your feet are in pedals. Then, as soon as you push away, all that familiarity is gone. I can only liken it to that first time on skis.

Around the inside of the track there is a flat zone — wide enough for the ambulance that we hope we do not need. We ambled around it for our first few laps as we got used to the bike, before Gary urged us to get onto the track. That meant a lot more speed. My first few attempts to get onto the banking must have looked pathetic. I seemed to have forgotten how to turn the handlebars to the right. Then suddenly I was up. It was barely two feet up the track, but I felt really proud of myself — until I hit the first turn.

My first ski instructor was an Austrian called Eric, who would cry: "Lean out, no lean back," as he encouraged us to commit to the slope. I found myself desperately needing him again as my mind battled with the concept of leaning over when the banking was already angled precipitously.

Soon, though, you come to relish the lurch to the left as you whip around the corner. If you are going fast enough it is almost impossible to fall off, unless, of course, you hit something, or someone.

After several kilometres, I was ready for a break, so I sought out Boardman in the fitness suite below the track. I asked him if we were going to see him up on the boards, even for the fun of it. I could see him digest the word "fun" before replying: "I don't think so. It's a bit like a brickie being invited to give an exhibition on bricklaying."

I think I see his point. The idea of riding around the track without a record in his sights can hardly have been enthralling and I imagine that he would not want to risk sharing the track with a pack of novices. Minutes later I was in my first track race. Hurtling around the track on your own is one thing, but doing it in the company of others is like doing 70mph on a motorway that has no lane markings. It is fantastic fun, though, elbow to elbow, not daring to look to either side. It is easy to cover a couple of miles at 25mph without really noticing.

I was doing well until I tried to avoid someone pulling up in front. My immediate reaction was to stop pedalling. I did not have time to make any other mistakes. Riding a fixed gear means you cannot just stop pedalling. If you do, your legs are jerked around so much that you feel they are going to be ripped off. Getting back your rhythm quickly is the only alternative to a crash.

As an introduction, the day had provided more than enough for everyone to be proud of. The track has a fascination that most agreed could become addictive. It is also like being invited into the inner sanctum of cycling when they have left the door open.



Boardman, left, passes on a few tips on the art of track cycling to Sharon, one of the novices

HOW TO GO CYCLE TRACK RACING

Track riding is an excellent form of all-weather conditioning. Not just cyclists, but many athletes from other sports use the track for building anaerobic fitness. Manchester Velodrome encourages beginners, for whom it holds special clinics. Track bikes can be hired, but you will need to bring clothes, shoes and a helmet. Track riding is a power-intensive activity, so an all-day session can be exhausting.

MANCHESTER VELODROME: Stuart Street, Manchester M11 4DQ (telephone 0161 223 2244, ticketline 0161 230 2307/2308). Internet: www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Arena/9468/velocyc.htm

SCIENCE IN SPORT: for information on nutrition and energy products, contact 01254 246060.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

After 40 boards of the 1998 Gold Cup semi-finals, Cohen's team were 57 IMPs down to Price. Board 41 started their comeback.

Dealer East **N-S game** **IMPs**

North: ♠ A 10 ♡ A Q 10 ♢ A J 10 7 4 ♣ A K 7

West: ♠ 9 8 3 ♡ 8 7 6 4 3 ♢ K 9 ♣ Q 9 8

East: ♠ K Q 6 5 4 2 ♡ 9 ♢ Q 8 6 5 2 ♣ 2

South: ♠ J 7 ♡ K J 5 2 ♢ 3 ♣ J 10 6 5 4 3

W	N	E	S
Hallberg	*Schapiro*	*Simpson*	*Gordon*
–	–	2 S	Pass
3 S	Double	4 S	5 C
Pass	6 C	All Pass	

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: nine of spades.

After West's thin raise of East's Weak Two, North clearly had to double (for take-out of course). Now East took the unusual action of bidding on. Normally if you have opened a Weak Two you leave the rest of the decisions to your partner, but exceptional distribution does occasionally justify another move. Here it bullied North-South into Six Clubs, a contract they might not have bid if left to themselves. With all of North's cards working, Six Clubs is an excellent contract.

After winning the spade lead Gordon cashed two top clubs. Even though this meant he had a trump loser, he was able to get dummy's spade away on a heart before West could ruff in.

At the other table Sandkvist as West passed East's Two Spade opening. North doubled, and South bid Two No-Trumps, a conventional move on his methods to show a weakish hand; North raised to Three No-Trumps. After a spade lead from West and a spade continuation, that precarious contract might have gone off if declarer had misguessed the clubs. However, he took the club finesse and ended with eleven tricks, for a swing to Cohen of 12 IMPs. Note that in order to create enough entries to finesse and cash the clubs, declarer had to sacrifice one of his natural heart winners.

□ Anyone looking for a last-minute winter break should consider the Malta Bridge Festival starting on 27 February. For further details phone Sally Brock on 01494 450620.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Oxford application

With the annual Varsity match between the teams from Oxford and Cambridge due on Saturday, March 6, at the RAC in London, moves are afoot to recognise chess at Oxford in the same way that Cambridge University already does. For many years, Cambridge has awarded half blue recognition to their chess team. However, their chess-playing colleagues at Oxford have not yet been similarly honoured.

Tomorrow Oxford will apply to the Oxford Blues Committee for half-blue recognition in the Oxford-Cambridge Varsity Match.

Both Oxford and Cambridge have an excellent record in producing top class chess talent, including Jon Speelman, a World Championship semi-finallist and David Norwood, a captain of the British Olympic Team.

Drawn match

A ten-game match between Britain's top ranked grandmaster Michael Adams and the leading US grandmaster Yasser Seirawan has ended in a 5-5 tie. Today I give one victory by Adams and the full crosstable of results.

White: Yasser Seirawan
Black: Michael Adams
Mermaid Beach Club
Bermuda 1999

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	Nc3	Bb4
5	Qb3	c5
6	a3	Ba5
7	Bg5	Bb7
8	e3	0-0
9	Rd1	Bxc3+
10	bxc3	Qe7
11	Be2	d6
12	0-0	Nbd7
13	Nd2	Rfc8
14	f3	h6
15	Bh4	Qe8
16	e4	Nh5
17	f4	f5
18	d5	Nhf6
19	Bf3	fxe4
20	Nxe4	Nxe4
21	Bxe4	exd5
22	Bf5	Rc7
23	cxd5	Nf8
24	c4	Qh5
25	Qh3	Bc8
26	Bxc8	Raxc8
27	f5	Re8
28	Rde1	Rcc8
29	f6	gxf6
30	Qg3+	Qg6
31	Rxf6	Qxg3
32	Bxg3	Rxe1+
33	Bxe1	Re8
34	Bg3	Re4
35	Bxd6	Nh7
36	Rg6+	Kf7
37	Rxh6	Nf6
38	h3	Rxc4
39	Bb8	Kg7
40	Rxf6	Kxf6
41	h4	b5 White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Final crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Adams	1	½	½	0	½	0	½	1	½	½	5
Seirawan	0	½	½	1	½	1	½	0	½	½	5

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw, and 0 a loss

NETBALL

Buck the trend as Middlesex close in

BY CATHY HARRIES

MIDDLESEX'S determined challenge to capture their first English Counties League title showed no sign of faltering when they comfortably defeated Bedfordshire, the 1997 winners, 51-33 to retain pole position in the table.

Only four points separate the top three after their closest rivals, Derbyshire and Essex Met, the champions, recorded convincing victories against Birmingham and Surrey respectively. Lorraine Law, who was sidelined with an ankle injury for the international against Wales last week, returned for the holders, but Lyn Carpenter, her England team-mate, limped out of the Surrey side before half-time with a similar injury.

Shooter Mel Buck laid the foundations for Middlesex's triumph, scoring 44 of her team's goals, but Helen Lonsdale, playing in her last game before joining her England team-mates, Amanda Newton, from Essex, and Naomi Siddall and Olivia Murphy, of Derbyshire, in New Zealand this month, was also in great form.

Sally Horrox, the Middlesex captain, said: "It was good to have our England defender Hellen Manufor back for her first full game after injury."

Karen Aspinall, the Loughborough University student, turned in a match-winning performance at wing attack for Derbyshire as they crushed Birmingham 65-32. Rosie Port, the Derbyshire coach, also praised the accuracy of Lisa Topliss, the former England shooter, who scored 36 goals, including a 100 per cent record in the second half.

SKI CLUB SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	90	90	Fair	Open	Varied	Snow	3	7/2
Austria								
Kitzbühel	75	196	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	7/2
Obergurgl	50	255	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	7/2
St Anton	130	460	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	7/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	135	163	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-2	6/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	128	210	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	7/2
Flaine	190	350	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	7/2
La Clusaz	110	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	7/2
La Plagne	145	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	7/2
La Tania	110	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	7/2
Les Arcs	142	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	7/2
Méribel	120	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	7/2
Tignes	123	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	7/2
Val Thorens	130	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	7/2
Val d'Isère	110	240	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	7/2
Italy								
Cervinia	90	200	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	7/2
Cortina	30	70	Hard	Hard	Heavy	Cloud	-2	5/2
Livigno	70	160	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-7	7/2
M di Campiglio	50	100	Hard	Artificial	Varied	Fair	-4	6/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	50	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	7/2
Davos	150	215	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	7/2
Grindelwald	60	215	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	7/2
Murren	140	200	Good	Some	Powder	Snow	-4	7/2
Saas Fee	60	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	7/2
St Moritz	45	120	Good	Open	Powder	Wind	-3	6/2
Villars	70	210	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	7/2
Wengen	60	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	7/2
Zermatt	80	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	7/2
United States								
Aspen	105	130	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	3	7/2
Deer Valley	193	193	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	7/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FRIGORIFICO
a. An Antarctic wind
b. An ice cream
c. A meat plant

COTHAM
a. A heavy linen
b. Limestone
c. Mug in shape of a man

ESRAJ
a. A stringed instrument
b. A princely heir
c. Romanisation of Urdu

APOPHATIC
a. Negative theology
b. A kind of rainwear
c. Nullifying a curse

Answers, page 44

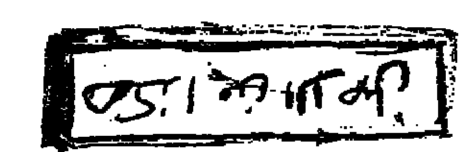
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Georgiev - Pelletier, Germany, 1998.

How did White clear a path for his passed pawn to advance?

Solution, page 44



FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

HAYWARDS HEATH: National championships: [illegible]

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Derby Storm 101 Worthing Bears 86, London Towers 68 Milton Keynes Lions 64, Manchester Giants 90 Greater London Leopards 78, Newcastle Eagles 78 Thames Valley Tigers 95. Yesterday: Milton Keynes 77 Newcastle Eagles 81. Sheffield Sharks 80 Leicester Riders 71. Edinburgh Rocks 85 Worthing Bears 51

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	25	23	2	46
Manchester Giants	25	22	3	44
Thames Valley Tigers	26	17	9	34
Birmingham Bullets	25	15	10	30
Derby Storm	25	15	10	30
London Towers	24	14	10	28
Newcastle Eagles	25	14	11	28
Greater London	23	11	12	22
Leicester Riders	24	7	17	14
Milton Keynes Lions	24	6	18	12
Edinburgh Rocks	24	6	18	12
Chester Jets	23	5	18	10
Worthing Bears	25	3	22	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE: [illegible]

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: [illegible]

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): [illegible]

BOWLS

[illegible]

BOXING

HALIFAX: Northbridge Leisure Centre: British super-bantamweight title: P Mullins (Harrow) bt B Carr (Glasgow) pts. Heavyweight (6rnds): G Kandelaki (Geo) bt L Husarick (Cz) pts. Welterweight (4rnds): D Christie (Hull) bt B Dunn (Immingham) pts. Lightweight (6rnds): T Tomchev (Bul) bt B Coleman (Birmingham) pts

CRESTA RUN

[illegible]

CRICKET

One-day international

South Africa v West Indies

CENTURION (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat West Indies by 50 runs

[illegible]

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: [illegible] day of five [illegible] 8-50) and [illegible] not out)

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Hobart (final day of four): [illegible]

MERCANTILE CUP: [illegible]

CYCLING

[illegible]

GOLF

[illegible]

SYDNEY: Greg Norman International: Leading final scores (Australia unless stated): 283: M Long (NZ) 73, 72, 66, 72. 284: M Campbell (NZ) 67, 72, 71, 74. 285: B Langer (Ger) 71, 65, 69, 80. 286: R Pampling 70, 74, 70, 72; P O'Malley 70, 70, 72, 74; A Painter 65, 68, 72, 80. 287: P Senior 67, 74, 71, 75. 288: P Lonard 79, 69, 68, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Bracknell Bees 4 Manchester Storm 2; Cardiff Devils 4 Newcastle Riverkings 3 (OT); Nottingham Panthers 3 Sheffield Steelers 0. Yesterday: Manchester Storm 3 Cardiff Devils 1.

	P	W	L	D	OL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	33	24	5	1	3	120	69	52
Cardiff	34	24	8	0	2	119	77	50
Nottingham	33	20	11	0	2	112	103	42
Bracknell	32	14	14	1	3	102	112	32
Sheffield	32	12	15	3	2	103	106	29
Ayr	29	12	13	3	1	88	93	28
Newcastle	32	9	19	2	2	83	116	22
London	33	8	19	2	4	93	144	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Tampa Bay 3 Anaheim 5; Washington 4 Carolina 1; Detroit 1 Colorado 3; Pittsburgh 3 Florida 0; Edmonton 4 Nashville 2. Saturday: Philadelphia 2 Boston 2; Phoenix 3 Chicago 0; Carolina 3 Florida 3; Montreal 3 Buffalo 2; New Jersey 2 Toronto 3; St Louis 3 Anaheim 4; Calgary 1 Ottawa 2; Los Angeles 2 San Jose 0.

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Toronto	30	18	3	165	149	63
Ottawa	28	15	7	148	110	63
Buffalo	24	17	8	134	105	56
Boston	20	21	9	127	118	49
Montreal	20	25	8	120	139	48

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Philadelphia	28	10	12	159	100	68
New Jersey	29	16	6	147	127	64
Pittsburgh	25	15	7	149	125	57
NY Rangers	20	23	7	135	137	47
NY Islanders	16	31	4	122	159	36

Southeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Carolina	23	20	9	132	129	55
Florida	19	18	13	125	132	51
Washington	19	26	4	124	131	42
Tampa Bay	11	36	4	102	184	26

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	25	22	4	149	132	54
St Louis	19	20	9	128	123	47
Nashville	18	28	5	117	162	41
Chicago	14	30	8	112	164	36

Northwest division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Colorado	28	19	4	140	124	60
Edmonton	20	21	8	139	128	48
Calgary	16	28	8	129	156	40
Vancouver	16	28	6	125	152	38

Pacific division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dallas	30	9	8	141	96	68
Phoenix	27	12	10	133	100	64
Anaheim	20	22	9	130	125	49
San Jose	16	22	12	111	120	44
Los Angeles	19	28	4	122	137	42

ROWING

WYCLIFFE HEAD: Men: Eights: Open: London University 13min 55sec. Senior three: Bristol University 15:03. Junior: Shrewsbury 14 47. Under-16: Shrewsbury 16:00. Under-15: Shrewsbury 16:33. Coxless fours: Open: London University 15.07. Senior two: Shrewsbury 16:19. Coxed fours: Open: London University 15:33. Senior one: Bridgnorth 16.16. Senior two: Avon County and St Edward's 16:55. Senior three: Bristol University 17:22. Junior: Shrewsbury 16:49. Under-16: Shrewsbury 17:40. Novice: King's, Worcester 16:10. Quad sculls: Senior two: Wycliffe 15:22. Junior: Wycliffe 15.18. Under-16: Shrewsbury 16.27. Under-15: Stourport 17:35. Under-14: Wycliffe 20.48. Women: Eights: Open: Oxford University Lightweights 15:50. Senior three: King's, Worcester 17:29. Novice: Cheltenham 17:50. Quad sculls: Senior one: Wycliffe and Avon County 17:08.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern Ford Premiership

Barrow 18 Whitehaven 12
Barrow: Tries: Manihera 2, Whiteley. Goals: Holt 3. Whitehaven: Tries: Hetherington, Wilson. Goals: Hetherington 2. Att: 1,421.

Batley 30 Oldham 0
Batley: Tries: Barnett, Clarke, Harrison, Jackson, Lingard, Miers. Goals: Price 3. Oldham: Att: 1,018.

Featherstone 32 Rochdale 12
Featherstone: Tries: Stokes 2, Clarkson, Dooler, Hall, Law. Goals: Chapman 4. Rochdale: Tries: A Eyres, Swann. Goals: Fox 2. Att: 1,762.

Keighley 42 Doncaster 16
Keighley: Tries: K Smith 2, Wood 2, Foster, Laurence, Lee, Rich. Goals: Rich 4, Antonik. Doncaster: Tries: Morgan 2, Miller. Goals: Edwards 2. Att: 2,472

Lancashire Lynx 13 Bramley 12
Lancashire Lynx: Tries: Abram 2. Goals: P Jones 2. Dropped goal: Hodgkinson. Bramley: Tries: D Gibbons, Potter. Goal: Kita. Dropped goals: Ford 2. Att: 298.

Leigh 16 York 12
Leigh: Tries: Fairclough, Kendrick. Goals: Kendrick 4. York: Tries: Deakin, Judge. Strange. Att: 1,546.

Swinton 10 Hunslet 21
Swinton: Tries: Ashcroft, Welsby. Goal: Gartland. Hunslet: Tries: Fletcher, Pachniuk, R Wilson. Goals: Fletcher 4. Dropped goal: Fletcher. Att: 1,239.

Widnes 30 Dewsbury 12
Widnes: Tries: Briers, Devecchi, Mannson, Savelion. Goals: Salisbury 7. Dewsbury: Tries: Godfrey, Kershaw. Goals: Eaton 2. Att: 2,798.

Workington 14 Hull KR 21
Workington: Tries: Knox, Wallace, Williams. Goal: Branthwaite. Hull KR: Tries: Wray 2, Danby, Kitching. Goals: Gray 2. Dropped goal: Gray. Att: 1,444

CLUB MATCH: Bradford 62 Wakefield 6.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley East Hull 4 Saddleworth 62; Leigh MR 14 Egremont 18; Oldham St Annes 2 Skirlaugh 9; Walney Central 24 Castleford Lock Lane 12; West Hull 11 Thornhill 1; Wigan St Patricks 36 Heworth 6; Woolston 22 Askam 18. First division: Barrow Island 20 Milford 14; Redhill 20 Leigh East 18; Shaw Cross 10 Oulton 38. Second division: Hull Dockers 32 Crosfields 6; New Earswick 14 Dewsbury Moor 17; Normanton 20 Ideal Isberg 23.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama; with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 2,331; 2, Antilope (K Harris) 2,351; 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 2,393; 4, Thermopylae (M Tod) 2,421; 5, Serica (R Dean) 2,437; 6, Mermerus (B Soltars) 2,452.

PERTH: Australia Cup: Final: G Brady (NZ) bt M Holmberg (Swe) 3-0. Third-place play-off: P Gilmour (Japan) bt T Basic (Cro) 2-0. British placing: 7, C Law.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Invitation international (under-18): England 0 Ireland 2. Heinz Ketchup Trophy: Fifth-round replay: South Notts 2 East Riding 0, Manchester 1 Liverpool 2. Northern Merit League: Salford 4 Stockport 2. Merseyside Competition: Mid Cheshire 2 Wirral 2. West Midlands League: Erdington and Saltley 1 Solihull 1, Wolverhampton 2 Halesowen-under-Stourbridge 1; Telford 2 West Bromwich 5. Staffordshire League: Burton 0 Tamworth 2. Hobbs Cup: Second round: Vale of White-horse 1 Mid and South Warwickshire 1 (aet, Mid and South Warwickshire win 3-1 on pens). Yorkshire Trophy: Redcar and Cleveland 1 Calder 4. Woodhead Cup: First round: Tameside 2 Rochdale 2 (aet, Tameside win 4-3 on pens). Goodhand Trophy: Worksop 1 Derby 1. Corinthian Shield: First round: Croydon 1 Islington and Camden 3. Pickford Shield: Quarter-final: Isle of Wight 5 Poole 3. Inter-association matches: Duncaster 3 Grimsby 0; Hull 1 Spen Valley 2; Nottingham 3 Leeds 0; Carlisle 4 Allerdale 2; Chester 5 Macclesfield 0

RUGBY UNION: Bradford 14 Manchester 10; Heriot's 5 Fettes 45; King Edward VI, Fiveways 0 Loughborough GS 38; Lancing 20 St Bede's 15; Mount St Mary's 27 Hymer's 12, Nottingham HS 15 Pocklington 14; St Benedict's 39 Cardinal Vaughan 0, Stockport GS 22 Lady Manners' 3, Tiffin 3 John Fisher 78; Yarm 24 St Alban's College (Arg) 5. Daily Mail under-18 Cup: King's, Macclesfield 0 QEGS, Wakefield 15

SKIING

VAIL: World championships: Men: Downhill: 1, H Maier (Austria) 1min 40 60sec; 2, L Kjus (Nor) 1:40.91; 3, K A Aamodt (Nor) 1:41.17; 4, H Knauss (Austria) 1.41.19; 5, S Eberharter (Austria) 1:41.40; 6, W Franz (Austria) 1:41.75. British placing: 24, A Freshwater 1:45.40.

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Masters: First round: J Wattana (Thai) bt D Gray (Eng) 6-2. Second round: M Williams (Wales) bt N Bond (Eng) 6-0.

SQUASH

MANCHESTER: National championships: Men: Semi-finals: S Parke (Yorks) bt L Beachill (Yorks) 15-9, 17-14, 15-9. P Johnson (Kent) bt M Cairns (Oxon) 7-15, 15-9, 15-7, 15-7. Final: Johnson bt Parke 10-15, 15-5, 15-8, 1-15, 15-7. Women: Semi-finals: C Jackman (Norfolk) bt J Martin (Northumbria) 9-0, 3-3, 9-3. S Wright (Kent) bt S Horner (Yorks) 10-8, 5-9, 9-2, 9-0. Final: Jackman bt Wright 9-5, 3-9, 6-9, 9-0, 9-6

TENNIS

MARSEILLES OPEN: Semi-finals: F Santoro (Fr) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-4, 6-4. A Clement (Fr) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4, 6-1. Final: Santoro bt Clement 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

TOKYO: Pan-Pacific Open: Semi-finals: M Hingis (Switz) bt J Novotna (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, A Coetzer (SA) bt M Seles (US) 6-4, 6-2. Final: Hingis bt Coetzer 6-2, 6-1.

RUGBY UNION

Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship

Ireland 9 France 10
Ireland: Pens: Humphreys 3. France: Try: Dourthe. Con: Castaignède. Pen: Castaignède. HT: 6-0. Att: 48,000
(at Lansdowne Road)

Scotland 33 Wales 20
Scotland: Tries: J Leslie, S Murray, Tait, Townsend. Cons: Logan 2. Pens: Logan 2. Pen: Hodge. Wales: Tries: S Gibbs, James. Cons: Jenkins 2. Pens: Jenkins 2. HT: 8-13. Att: 67,500
(at Murrayfield)

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Harlequins 9 Leicester 34
Harlequins: Pens: Schuster 3. Leicester: Tries: Lloyd 2, Back, Moody. Stransky. Cons: Stransky 3. Pen: Stransky. HT: 9-10. Att: 6,212.

London Irish 42 Gloucester 20
London Irish: Tries: Berridge 2, Cunningham, Feaunati, Halley, Woods. Cons: Cunningham 2, Woods. Pen: Cunningham. Dropped goal: Bachop. Gloucester: Tries: Benton, Carter, Saint-André. Con: Mapletoft. Pen: Mapletoft. HT: 30-8. Att: 5,020

Wasps 35 Bath 0
Wasps: Tries: Scrivener 2, Wood 2, Weedon. Cons: King 2. Pens: King 2. HT: 17-0. Att: 9,526.

Northampton 18 Saracens 21
Northampton: Pens: Grayson 6. Saracens: Tries: Daniel, Ravenscroft. Con: Johnson. Pens: Johnson 3. HT: 12-10. Att: 8,253

Sale 7 London Scot 23
Sale: Try: Mather. Con: Shaw. London Scot: Tries: Davies, Easterby. Cons: De Beer 2. Pens: De Beer 3. HT: 0-13. Att: 2,200.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	18	15	0	3	527	284	30
Northampton	18	13	0	5	470	380	26
London Irish	19	12	0	7	500	427	24
Saracens	17	11	1	5	497	353	23
Wasps	17	10	1	6	480	314	21
Newcastle	17	10	0	7	453	388	20
Bath	18	10	0	8	427	380	20
Harlequins	17	9	0	8	416	429	18
Richmond	16	8	1	7	415	420	17
Gloucester	19	8	1	10	395	430	17
London Scot	18	6	0	12	343	436	12
Sale	18	5	0	13	403	519	10
Bedford	17	2	0	15	347	556	4
W Hartlepool	17	2	0	15	261	618	4

LEADING SCORERS: 263: J Schuster (Harlequins, 4 tries, 24 conversions, 64 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 219: G Johnson (Saracens: 7t, 35c, 38pg). 201: K Logan (Wasps; 6t, 24c, 41pg). 193: M Catt (Bath: 3t, 29c, 40pg). 188: N Woods (London Irish, 11t, 22c, 29pg). 183: J Wilkinson (Newcastle, 5t, 34c, 30pg). 181: J Stransky (Leicester, 7t, 34c, 26pg). Tries: 11: Woods. 10: N Back (Leicester), J Guscott (Bath), P Lam (Northampton). 9: B Daniel (Saracens)

Second division

Blackheath 28 Wakefield 20
Blackheath: Tries: Clarke 2, M Griffiths, Sangster. Con: Amor. Pens: Amor 2. Wakefield: Tries: Breheny, Simpson-Daniel. Cons: Dixon 2. Pens: Dixon 2. HT: 8-10.

Bristol 31 Rotherham 36
Bristol: Tries: Baber, Gabey, penalty try, Pritchard. Cons: Knox 4. Pen: Knox. Rotherham: Tries: Lax, Spence, Umaga, Wade. Cons: Trivella 2. Pens: Trivella 4. HT: 24-18. Att: 2,496

Fylde 24 Waterloo 5
Fylde: Tries: Anderton, Evans, Rigby, Scott. Cons: Peacock 2. Waterloo: Try: Beckett. HT: 5-0

Leeds 44 Exeter 7
Leeds: Tries: Scales 4, S Easterby, Edwards, Emmerson. Cons: Tuipulotu 2, Rhodes. Pen: Tuipulotu. Exeter: Try: Barrow. Con: B Easson. HT: 8-7. Att: 800

London Welsh 26 Moseley 24
London Welsh: Tries: Giraud 2, Currier. Con: Lee. Pens: Lee 2. Pen: Raymond. Moseley: Tries: Cook, N Mitchell. Con: A Binns. Pens: S Jones 4. HT: 13-14. Att: 600

Orrell 31 Coventry 0
Orrell: Tries: Hope, Slemen, Verbickas, Wynn. Cons: Verbickas 4. Pen: Verbickas. HT: 24-0

Rugby 23 Worcester 36
Rugby: Tries: Davies, Saunders. Cons: Davies 2. Pens: Davies 3. Worcester: Tries: Jenner, Le Bas, Lyman, Myler. Cons: Le Bas 2. Pens: Le Bas 4. HT: 6-18. Att: 1,200

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Worcester	17	15	0	2	442	224	28
Bristol	16	13	0	3	507	243	26
Rotherham	16	12	0	4	401	214	24
London Welsh	17	11	0	6	412	369	22
Leeds	17	10	0	7	436	226	20
Waterloo	17	10	0	7	300	353	20
Exeter	16	8	1	7	353	377	17
Orrell	17	8	0	9	330	248	16
Coventry	16	8	0	8	380	346	16
Rugby	16	7	0	9	249	311	14
Moseley	17	6	0	11	335	413	12
Wakefield	17	3	0	14	293	519	6
Fylde	16	2	1	13	205	496	5
Blackheath	17	2	0	15	220	524	4

* Worcester deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 186: S Gough (Coventry, 6 tries, 30 conversions, 32 penalty goals). 178: S Tuipulotu (Leeds, 3t, 23c, 39pg). 155: L Griffiths (Waterloo; 2t, 17c, 37pg). 148: B Easson (Exeter: 1t, 22c, 33pg). Tries: 12: A Larkin (Bristol). 11: B Wade (Rotherham). 8: A Currier (London Welsh), G Austin (Rotherham), R Myler (Worcester), W Sailor (Leeds)

Jewson National League

First division

B'ham/Solihull 10 Newbury 16
Birmingham/Solihull: Try: Bailey. Con: M Birch. Pen: M Birch. Newbury: Tries: Brammer, Collins. Pens: Pohipp 2. HT: 0-8

Camberley 19 Henley 31
Camberley: Try: Owen. Con: G Gregory. Pens: G Gregory 4. Henley: Tries: Roke 2, R Osman. Cons: Roke 2. Pens: Roke 4. HT: 6-20. Att: 600

Harrogate 9 Reading 13
Harrogate: Pens: Yates 3. Reading: Try: Pitt. Con: Dance. Pens: Dance 2. HT: 6-3

Liverpool St H 7 Rosslyn Park 22
Liverpool St Helens: Try: Topping. Con: Glynn. Rosslyn Park: Tries: Brady, Marval, A Milward, penalty try. Con: Dowse. HT: 7-5.

Manchester 67 Lydney 0
Manchester: Tries: 2 penalty tries, Blood, D Craddock, P Craddock, Ellis, Fowler, Jee, Kirke, Langhorn. Cons: Swindells 7. Pen: Swindells. HT: 27-0.

Nottingham 19 Morley 11
Nottingham: Tries: Freer, Royer. Pens: C Atkinson 2. Dropped goal: Jack. Morley: Try: L Hamilton. Pens: Bamber 2. HT: 13-6

Wharfedale 21 Otley 3
Wharfedale: Tries: Evans, Lister. Con: Mounsey. Pens: Mounsey 3. Otley: Pen: Clapposon. HT: 21-3. Att: 1,600

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	20	16	0	4	608	248	32
Henley	18	16	0	2	438	203	32
Otley	20	12	0	8	344	307	24
Rosslyn Park	19	11	0	8	369	278	22
Wharfedale	20	11	0	9	357	272	22
Nottingham	18	10	0	8	363	306	20
Newbury	19	10	0	9	350	316	20
Camberley	20	9	1	10	395	484	19
Reading	20	9	0	11	376	432	18
Lydney	18	8	1	9	296	353	17
B'ham/Solihull	20	8	0	12	343	367	16
Harrogate	20	5	1	14	212	362	11
Morley	19	5	1	13	306	482	11
Liverpool St H	*19*	*3*	*0*	*16*	229	595	6

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Aspatria 17 Nuneaton 23, Kendal 26 Whitchurch 10; Lichfield 17 Sandal 73, Sedgley Park 64 Hinckley 17, Sheffield 14 Preston Grasshoppers 3. Walsall 11 Stourbridge 37. Winnington Park 14 New Brighton 26

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Bracknell 38 Bridgwater 0; Cheltenham 14 Clifton 19; N Walsham 21 Barking 9; Norwich 12 Havant 21; Plymouth 15 Esher 34, Redruth 16 Tabard 21. Weston-super-Mare 14 Met Police 24

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Charlton Park 19 Harlow 48. Cheshunt 19 Staines 16. Guildford and Godalming 62 Old Mid-Whitgiftian 10; Ruislip 19 Sudbury 10. Southend 10 Woodford 74. Thanet Wanderers 36 Wimbledon 8. Thurrock 20 Sutton and Epsom 20. Westcombe Park 51 Basingstoke 10

SOUTH WEST: Barnstaple 14 Gloucester OB 10. Berry Hill 3 Matson 25. Keynsham 34 Torquay Athletic 0; Maidenhead 53 Old Patesians 9, Salisbury 0 Launceston 107. Stroud 7 Penzance-Newlyn 59

MIDLANDS: Dudley 22 Wolverhampton 5. Kenilworth 19 Burton 6. Leighton Buzzard 15 Banbury 79; Mansfield 7 Bedford Athletic 38. Scunthorpe 49 Camp Hill 6. Stoke-on-Trent 12 Broadstreet 25. Syston 13 Belgrave 15. Westleigh 15 Barkers Butts 23

NORTH: Blaydon 38 Hull 20. Macclesfield 19 Bridlington 8. Middlesbrough 39 Widnes 0. Stockton 6 Doncaster 33. Tynedale 15 Broughton Park 3. Wigton 22 Northern 35

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford 31 Queensland 13

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Cardiff 57 Bedford 14
Cardiff: Tries: Botham 4, S Hill 2, E Lewis, Rayer, R Williams. Cons: Burke 6. Bedford: Tries: Forster, Wells. Cons: Howard 2. HT: 21-7. Att: 2,728

W Hartlepool 27 Swansea 28
W Hartlepool: Tries: Collier, MacLure. Con: Benson. Pens: Benson 5. Swansea: Tries: Rees 2, R Jones, Noble. Con: L Davies. Pens: L Davies 2. HT: 22-10. Att: 1,000

Tennent's Velvet Cup

Fifth round

Glasgow Hawks 10 Kelso 13
Glasgow Hawks: Try: Penalty try. Con: E Martin. Pen: E Martin. Kelso: Try: Howlett. Con: Aitchison. Pens: Aitchison 2. HT: 7-6

Kilmarnock 12 Musselburgh 10
Kilmarnock: Tries: Adam, A Sinclair. Con: Stewart. Musselburgh: Tries: D Archibald, Cringan. HT: 12-0

POSTPONED: Hawick v Boroughmuir

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Postponed: Currie v West of Scotland. Second division: Postponed: Dundee HSFP v Kirkcaldy. Third division: Berwick 57 Glenrothes 0; Ayr 3 Preston Lodge 11



Martina Hingis stretches for a forehand during her straight sets victory over Amanda Coetzer in the final of the Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. The win saw Hingis reclaim her No 1 world ranking from Lindsay Davenport

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston 4 Guildford 2, Brooklands 2 Teddington 2. Cannock 6 Old Loughtonians 2; East Grinstead 3 Canterbury 4. Hounslow 0 Bournville 2. Southgate 2 Reading 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canterbury	13	11	1	1	58	28	34
Cannock	13	10	2	1	53	20	32
Southgate	13	10	0	3	38	27	30
Reading	14	8	3	3	44	27	27
Beeston	13	6	3	4	31	29	21
Guildford	13	6	1	6	40	51	19
Teddington	13	5	1	7	38	37	16
O L'tonians	13	5	1	7	38	42	16
Bournville	13	4	2	7	27	43	14
Hounslow	13	3	2	8	22	36	11
East Grinstead	14	2	1	11	35	48	7
Brooklands	13	0	1	12	18	54	1

FIRST DIVISION: Chelmsford 1 Harleston Magpies 2. Doncaster 10 Indian Gymkhana 1. Firebrands 1 Eastcote 3. Hampstead 1 St Albans 3. Havant 1 Surbiton 3. Lewes 6 Hull 3. Loughborough Students 2 Isca 2. Oxford Hawks 3 Sheffield 4. Oxford University 1 Bromley 0; Stourport 4 Barford Tigers 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	13	10	1	2	50	21	31
Doncaster	13	9	3	1	49	17	30
Lewes	13	9	2	2	51	29	29
Barford Tigers	13	8	3	2	46	30	27
Havant	13	9	0	4	34	25	27
Stourport	13	7	4	2	48	26	25
Chelmsford	13	8	1	4	40	30	25
L'borough St	13	6	6	1	27	18	24
Indian G	13	5	4	4	36	42	19
Eastcote	13	4	4	5	31	37	16
Firebrands	13	4	3	6	33	34	15
Harleston	13	3	5	5	35	38	14
St Albans	13	4	2	7	38	51	14
Isca	13	4	2	7	28	45	14
Oxford Hawks	13	1	7	5	26	34	10
Hampstead	13	3	1	9	26	43	10
Sheffield	13	2	3	8	26	43	9
Oxford Univ	13	1	4	8	20	38	7
Bromley	12	2	1	9	18	37	7
Hull	12	1	2	9	16	42	5

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackheath 1 Fareham 2; Bournemouth 0 City of Portsmouth 1. Chichester 7 Anchorians 2. High Wycombe 4 Herne Bay 1. Old Cranleighans 8 Beckenham 2. Tunbridge Wells 3 Richmond 1. Wimbledon 3 Gore Court 1. Winchester 2 Maidenhead 4. Woking 6 Purley 3. Wokingham 5 Old Whitgiftians 2. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes 0 Andover 4. Camberley 0 Basingstoke 1. Dulwich 1 Trojans 1. Epsom 1 Haslemere 0. Goan 0 London University 3. London Wayfarers 1 Fleet 3. Old Georgians 10 Oxshott 0. Portsmouth 2 Blandford 3. Spencer 1 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 0. Kent/Sussex: Eastbourne 8 Bexley Invicta 3. Horsham 3 Marden Russets 2. Lloyds Bank 2 Brighton 6. Mid Sussex 2 Folkestone 3. Old Bordenians 8 South Saxons 0. Old Holcombeians 3 Middleton/Bognor 2. Old Williamsonians 2 BBHC 6. Sevenoaks 2 Ashford 2. Tulse Hill 2 Rochester and Gillingham 3. Worthing 1 Burnt Ash 1. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Abingdon 0 City of Oxford 0. Ashford 1 Lions 1. Farnham Common 2 Milton Keynes 5. Newbury 3 West Hampstead 2. PHC Chiswick 6 Marlow 2. Richings Park 9 Phoenix 0. Sonning 4 Hendon 2. Staines 6 Gerrards Cross 0. Sunbury 2 Hayes 4

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ben Rhydding 0 Sheffield Bankers 1. Durham University 3 Harrogate 2. Formby 8 Chester 0. Neston 4 Norton 1. Southport 4 Bowdon 5. Warrington 3 Rotherham 1. North West: First division: Bolton 3 Sandbach 1. Cheetham Hill 1 Sale 2. Chester 2 Liverpool University 5. Colwyn Bay 4 Knutsford 1. Oxton 1 Glaxo 1. Prescot 0 Monsanto 4

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Leek 2 Harborne 2; North Notts 4 Coventry and North Warwick 3. North Stafford 0 Khalsa 1. Northampton Saints 1 Shrewsbury 1. Nottingham 5 Edgbaston 2. Olton and West Warwick 2 Hampton-in-Arden 0

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Robinsons 2 Yeovil and Sherborne 2; Swansea 0 Taunton Vale 1; West Wilts 1 Weston-super-Mare 2. Whitchurch 4 Cheltenham 2

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge University 6 Cambridge City 4, Clacton 2 Blueharts 2; Ipswich 1 Colchester 2; Peterborough Town 2 Crostyx 1, West Herts 2 Bedford Town 2.

INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (at Crystal Palace): Pool A: Old Loughtonians 10 Barford Tigers 6, Barford Tigers 3 Hull 5, Hull 4 Old Loughtonians 11. Pool B: East Grinstead 7 Southgate 8; Southgate 5 Reading 2; Reading 6 East Grinstead 4. Final: Old Loughtonians 5 Southgate 5 (Southgate win 3-2 on pens). Junior match: Bromley 2 Canterbury 5

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton 5 Doncaster 4, Hightown 2 Slough 1. Ipswich 4 Sutton 1; Leicester 2 Olton 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	9	8	1	0	27	7	25
Slough	9	6	1	2	28	16	19
Clifton	9	5	1	3	19	16	16
Hightown	9	3	5	1	15	13	14
Olton	9	3	3	3	17	22	12
Leicester	9	2	2	5	17	23	8
Doncaster	9	1	1	7	18	27	4
Sutton	9	1	0	8	11	25	3

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford 3 Wimbledon 3; Chelmsford 3 Sunderland 1. Loughborough Students 3 Canterbury 1; Trojans 1 Aldridge 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford	9	5	2	2	19	11	17
Aldridge	9	5	1	3	12	11	16
L'borough St	9	4	2	3	15	14	14
Canterbury	9	4	1	4	24	16	13
Trojans	9	3	4	2	21	18	13
Bradford S	9	3	4	2	18	17	13
Wimbledon	9	1	4	4	12	18	7
Sunderland	9	1	2	6	8	24	5

SECOND DIVISION: Hampton 5 St Albans 5, Old Loughtonians 3 Ealing 0. Poynton 4 Sherwood 0; Woking 1 Bracknell 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woking S	9	9	0	0	37	9	27
Ealing	*9*	*6*	*1*	*2*	*15*	*15*	*19*
Loughtonians	9	4	2	3	21	14	14
Bracknell	9	4	1	4	15	16	13
St Albans	9	3	3	3	20	25	12
Hampton	9	2	1	6	15	27	7
Sherwood	9	2	0	7	5	15	6
Poynton	9	1	2	6	16	23	5

WOMEN'S EHA CUP: Fourth round: Blackburn 1 Slough 11; Hightown 7 Sherwood 0

☐ *Revised fifth-round draw: Aldridge v Olton; Billingham v Leicester, Canterbury v Doncaster. Chelmsford v Loughborough Students; Clifton v Ipswich, Ealing v Slough; Hightown v Tulse Hill; Woking v Bradford.*

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Blueharts 5 Ipswich 0; Bury St Edmunds 3 Ashford 0; Cambs C 0 Sevenoaks 0; Harleston 4 Letchworth 0. Standings: 1. Harleston 26pts; 2, Ipswich 18, 3, Sevenoaks 15. Midlands: Bedford 3 Luton 1, Belper 1 N Staffs 5, Loughborough Students 3 Kettering 2. Olton 2 Crimson R 4. Standings: 1, Bedford 24pts, 2, Kettering 19, 3, N Staffs 18. North: Deeside R 4 Blackburn 0; Chester 2 Winnington Park 3. Leyland M 1 Sheffield 2; Liverpool S 3 Don Valley 2. Standings: 1. Deeside 25pts, 2, Liverpool 19; 3, Chester 15. West: Cheltenham 1 Colwall 3, Exeter 3 Leominster 0, Exmouth 3 St Austell 2. Portishead 1 T Vale 1; Redland 1 Bournemouth 6. Standings: 1, Colwall 30pts. 2, Exmouth 24. 3, Exeter 23. South: City of Portsmouth 1 Southampton 4. Dulwich 0 W Witney 0, Horsham 0 Tulse Hill 2. Reading 2 Hendon 1. Winchester 0 Rover 2; Maidenhead 2 Dulwich 2, Rover 4 City of Portsmouth 1. Southampton 1 Horsham 1; Tulse Hill 1 Reading 0; W Witney 4 Winchester 1. Standings: 1. Dulwich 35pts; 2, Rover 32. 3, Tulse Hill 29.

ATHLETICS

Track and field

STUTTGART: Sparkassen Cup: Winners and Britons: Men: 60m: 1, E Nkansah (Ghana) 6.52sec; 2, J Gardener (GB) 6.54. 400m: 1, J Baulch (GB) 46.24. 400m B: 1, A Condon (GB) 46.71; 2, R Clay (GB) 47.09; 3, S Baldock (GB) 47.25. 800m: 1, J Botha (SA) 1min 45.45sec. 1,500m: 1, H Gebrselassie (Eth) 3:34.28. 1,500m B: 1, B Treacy (GB) 3:44.85. 3,000m: 1, M Wolde (Eth) 7:42.61. 60m hurdles: 1, F Balk (Ger) 7.34, 2, C Jackson (GB) 7.39. Pole vault: 1, A Tivontchik (Ger) 5.80m. Triple jump: 1, I Punga (Rom) 17.0m. Women: 60m: 1, S Jayesinghe (Sri Lanka) 7.09. 400m: 1, G Breuer (Ger) 50.97. 400m B: 1, O Kotlyarova (Russ) 50.91. 800m: 1, L Formanova (Cz) 1:58.78. *1,000m: 1, M Mutola (Mozambique) 2:35.66*; 5, D Modahl (GB) 2:43.77. 1,500m: 1, K Dulecha (Ken) 4:04.88. 60m hurdles: 1, B Bukovec (Slovenia) 7.78. High jump: 1, M Dinescu-Iager (Rom) 1.91m. Long jump: 1, I Prandjeva (Bul) 6.61m.

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: Great Britain v France under-23 indoor international meeting (Great Britain unless stated): Men: 60m: 1, C Malcolm 6.67sec; 2, D Patros (Fr) 6.76; 3, U Ugono 6.82; 4, V Caure (Fr) 6.85. 200m: 1, Malcolm 20.74; 2, J Henthorn 21.07; 3, S Krantz *(Fr) 21.29*; 4, J Oxane *(Fr) 21.99*. 400m: 1, D Caines 47.29; 2, L Lerouge (Fr) 47.82; 3, L Baird 48.01. 800m: 1, P Fisher 1min 52.49sec; 2, J Parker 1:54.55; 3, F Chould (Fr) 1:55.41. Disqualified: S Demaneche (Fr). 60m hurdles: 1, R Baillie 7.75; 2, D Greaves 7.82; 3, D Delric (Fr) 7.86; 4, E Pollou (Fr) 8.07. High jump: 1, G Gabella (Fr) 2.18m; 2, D Graham 2.10; 3, J Charmont *(Fr) 2.05*; 4, *R Dent* 2.05. Pole vault: 1, M Boisrond (Fr) 5.20m; 2, C Pierre Peus (Fr) 5.10; 3, B Flint 5.10; 4, S Simpson 4.80. Long jump: 1, L Djhone (Fr) 7.49m; 2, N Morgan 7.26; 3, S Wells 7.14; 4, D Mbida (Fr) 6.65. Triple jump: *1, C Falana (Fr) 15.87m*; 2, A Filet (Fr) 15.78; 3, J Wallace 15.37; 4, M Bramble 14.63. Shot: 1, C Myerscough 18.63m; 2, E Udechuku 16.94; 3, R Govdin (Fr) 16.44; 4, G Buckl (Fr) 16.28. 5km walk: 1, F Delree (Fr) 20:53.00; 2, *M Thomas (Fr)* 21:57.84, 3, S Taylor 23:10.01; 4, M Kemp 23:16.41. 4 x 400m relay: 1, Great Britain 3:12.77; 2. France 3:14.02. Women: 60m: 1, F Dia (Fr, guest) 7.43; 2, D Daruel (Fr) 7.48; 3, M Purkiss 7.63; 4, C-A Rapp (Fr) 7.64; 5, L Seaton 7.70. 200m: 1, M Hurtis (Fr) 20.74; 2, F Dia (Fr) 23.54; 3, M Purkiss 24.36; 4, L Thorne 24.54. 400m: 1, C Ega (Fr) 54.54; 2, C Easton 54.63; 3, K Gear 56.22. 800m: 1, L Valenado (Fr) 2:06.33; 2, B Dubois (Fr) 2:07.17; 3, E Davies 2:07.95; 4, J Ward 2:25.00. 1,500m: 1, J Ingman 4:28.84; 2, A Roux (Fr) 4:36.88; 3, S Scott 4:40.19; 4, M Gueno (Fr) 4:48.52. 60m hurdles: 1, J Pratt 8.37; 2, S Claxton 8.43; 3, A Kassambara (Fr) 8.78; 4, J Bujack (Fr) 8.80. High jump: 1, M Dunkley 1.80m; 2, L McConnell 1.80; 3, A Jardin (Fr) 1.75; 4, M Cartal (Fr) 1.70. Pole vault: 1, A Agnot (Fr) 4.0m; 2, A Poissonier (Fr) 3.70; 3, T Bloomfield 3.70; 4, L Patterson 3.20. Long jump: 1, P Querin (Fr) 6.14m; 2, J Hollman 6.05; 3, S Pinet 5.82; 4, C Legouguet (Fr) 5.55. Triple jump: 1, Y Squelnia (Fr) 12.90m; 2, C Legougoec (Fr) 12.68; 3. J Hurst 12.20; 4, L Patrick 12.66. Shot: 1, P Roles 15.95; 2, M Waldet (Fr) 14.97. 3, J Dunkley 14.85; 4, N Nesnas (Fr) 14.76. 3km walk: 1, C Lagarhie (Fr) 14:33.44, 2, V Janvier (Fr) 14:44.53; 3, N Huckerby 15:05.12. 4 x 400m relay: 1, France 3:42 18; 2, Great Britain 3:43.11.
☐ Match result: 1, Great Britain 116pts; 2, France 113.

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: International indoor schools meeting: Boys: 60m: 1, M Hopton (Eng) 7.31sec; 2, S Berry (Ire) 7.36; 3, G Jones (Wales) 7.48. 4, F Murphy (Scot) 7.57. 200m: 1, D Graham (Ire) 22.63; 2, L Oboh (Eng) 22.64; 3, N Hiscott (Wales) 23.25, 4, D Graham (Ire) 23.69. 400m: 1, C Erskine (Scot) 49.91 (meeting record); 2, D Petros (Eng) 52.39; 3, M Groves (Wales) 53.49; 4, D Kelly (Ire) 54.69. 800m: 1, S Richards (Wales) 2min 1.88sec; 2, P Grant (Ire) 2:02.22; 3, R McIntosh (Scot) 2:02.83; 4, E Bailey (Eng) 2:04.16. 1,500m: 1, S Ablitt (Eng) 4:11.50; 2, M Agnew (Ire) 4:18.48; 3, D Jones (Wales) 4.20.38; 4, D Simpson (Scot) 4:26.83. 60m hurdles: 1, *N Hiscott (Wales)* 8.71; 2, D Munnelly (Ire) 8.98; 3, G Smith (Scot) 9.12; 4, T Sinclair (Eng) 9.14. High jump: 1, C Enin-Snell (Wales) 2.0m (meeting record); 2, A O'Dwyer (Ireland) 1.95; 3, J McCall (Scot) 1.80; 4, C Bailey (Eng) 1.65. Pole vault: 1, A Jervis (Eng) 3.90m; 2, R Hurren (Scot) 3.50; 3, P Skelly (Ire) 3.10; 4, M Harvey (Wales) 2.90. Long jump: 1, J Lau (Eng) 6.47m; 2, B Marshall (Ire) 5.99; 3, C McLaren (Scot) 5.97. 4, G Jones (Wales) 5.86. Triple jump: 1, L Harris (Eng) 13.53m, 2, K Stoddart (Scot) 12.56; 3, *R Conway* (Ire) 12.55, 4, A Daniel (Wales) 11.83. Shot: 1, C Saggers *(Eng) 14.99m, 2, S Cole (Wales) 12.96, 3, C* Rankin (Scot) 12.05, 4, J Grant (Ire) 11.68. 4 x 200m relay: 1, Ireland 1:34.53; 2, Scotland 1.34 78, 3, Wales 1 35 78. Did not finish: England. Match result: 1, England 33pts; 2, Ireland 32; 3, Wales 28; 4, Scotland 26. Girls: 60m: 1, D Selley (Wales) 7.84, 2, N Watson (Eng) 8.01; 3, S Whigham (Scot) 8.16. 4, A Maunsell (Ire) 8.24. 200m: 1, V James (Eng) 24.37 (meeting record), 2, S Gamble (Wales) 25.58. 3, S O'Brien (Ire) 26.02; 4, V Houston (Scot) 26.46. 300m: 1, H Davies (Wales) 41.25; 2, C Pierre (Eng) 41.52; 3, N Strain (Ire) 43.49; 4, A Walker (Scot) 45.52. 800m: 1, L Dobriskey (Eng) 2:14.54; 2, L Thomas (Wales) 2:18.48, 3, J Lando (Scot) 2:24.49; 4, E McIlroy (Ire) 2:32.13. 1,500m: 1, Z Jelbert (Eng) 4.43.91, 2, F Murray (Scot) 4:45.08; 3, E Sherrard-Smith (Wales) 4:49.76, 4, T Whelehan (Ire) 5.18.92. 60m hurdles: 1, D Selley (Wales) 8.93; 2, S Belle (Eng) 8.97, 3, L Russell (Scot) 9.20, 4, R Mitchell (Ire) 9.25. High jump: 1, A Wilson (Eng) 1.75m (equals meeting record), 2, V Allan (Scot) 1.61; 3, E Bolton (Ire) 1.58, 4, H Davies (Wales) 1.45. Long jump: 1, M Parris (Eng) 5.62m. 2, C Kearns (Ire) 5.55, 3, S McVie (Scot) 5.49; 4, S Newington (Wales) 4.67. Shot: 1, L Finlay (Wales) 10.66m; 2, G Ausan (Ire) 10.36, 3, F Miller (Scot) 10.33, 4, S Moles (Eng) 10.10. 4 x 200m relay: 1, England 1.42.19, 2, *Wales 1:42.91; 3, Ireland 1 44.18*. Disqualified: Scotland. Match result: 1, England 36pts; 2, Wales 29; equal 3, Ireland and Scotland 17. Overall result: 1, England 69. 2, Wales 57; 3, Ireland 49; 4, Scotland 43

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN: Millrose Games indoor meeting (United States unless stated): Winners: Men: 60m: M Greene 6.51sec. 500m: M Everett 1min 1.70sec. 800m: J Gray 1:48.89. Mile: W Tanui (Ken) 3:59.24. 3,000m: P Bitok (Ken) 7:43.61. 60m hurdles: R Torian 7.59. High jump: S Smith 2.24m. Shot: K Toth 20.90m. Pole vault: J Hartwig 5.80m. Women: 60m: I Miller 7.20. 400m: J Miles-Clark 53.88. 800m: M Valmon 2:04.37. Mile: R Jacobs 4:31.65. 60m hurdles: M Morrison 7.99. High jump: T Walker 1.89m. Pole vault: M Mueller 4.49m. Shot: C Price-Smith 18.59m.

Cross country

VILAMOURA, Portugal: International meeting: Men (10km): 1, T Nyariki (Ken) 29min 39sec; 2, P Koech (Ken) 29 48, 3, P Guerra (Por) 30:00. Women (6km): 1, Z Ouaziz (Mor) 19:31; 2, G Wami (Eth) 19:32, 3, L Malot (Ken) 19:43.

CARDIFF: British Universities championships: Men (10.4km): 1, S Barden (Loughborough) 29min 29sec; 2, P Tulba (Loughborough) 29:35; 3, M O'Dowd (Loughborough) 29:37. Teams: 1, Loughborough 45pts; 2, Staffordshire 193; 3, Oxford 223. B race (6.8km): M Hibbard (Loughborough) 19:48. Teams: 1, Loughborough 12; 2, Loughborough B 45; 3, Oxford 45. Women (6.1km): 1, T Krzywicki (Loughborough) 19:10; 2, A Waterlow (Loughborough) 19:14; 3, K Skorupska (Oxford) 19:23. Teams: 1, Loughborough *(holders)* 20; 2, Oxford 68, 3, Birmingham 79.

COLERAINE: Northern Ireland championships: Men (7.5 miles). 1, D Donnelly (Annadale Striders) 40min 49sec; 2, J Fenn (North Belfast) 40:59; 3, J Campbell (Annadale Striders) 42:24; 4, D McNeilly (Newcastle) 42:40; 5, P Smyth (North Belfast) 43:07. 6, G McLernon (Willowfield) 43:21. Teams: 1, Annadale Striders 52pts; 2, North Belfast 59. Women (3 miles): 1, M Synott (Letterkenny) 19:11; 2, P Thom (Ballymena and Antrim) 19:12; 3, S Hatch (Sparta) 19:36. Teams: 1, Sparta 26; 2, Ballymena and Antrim 30; 3, Lagan Valley 42.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Gwent League: Men (10.6km): 1, S Tobin (Swansea) 34min 55sec; 2, *R Gardiner* (Cardiff) 35 11. 3, A Bristow (Erme Valley) 35:33. Teams: 1, Swansea 58pts; 2, Les Croupiers 83; 3, Neath 90. Women (6.3km): 1, A Styles (Westbury) 24:26; 2, F Gill (Neath) 24:31; 3, S Monahan (Great Western Runners) 25 42. Teams: 1, Cardiff 87; 2, Les Croupiers 95, 3, Great Western Runners 115.

CAMBERLEY: Hampshire League: Men (5 miles): 1, M East (City of Portsmouth) 25min 38sec; 2, S Smith (Reading) 26.07. 3, *C Palmer (Team Solent) 26:13*. Teams: 1, Basingstoke and Mid Hants 74pts; 2, Reading 83; 3, Overton 147. Final standings: 1, Basingstoke and Mid Hants 6, 2, Aldershot, Farnham and District 19; 3, City of Portsmouth 20. Women (3 miles): 1, B Hartigan (Overton) 18:21; 2, M Stedman (Reading Roadrunners) 18:55; 3, C Wheeler (Overton) 19:45. Teams: 1, Basingstoke and Mid Hants 21; 2, Overton 28; 3, Winchester 38. Final standings: 1, Winchester 9; 2, Overton 15; 3, Aldershot, Farnham and District 21.

CUPAR, Fife: Scottish national championships: Men (12,000m): 1, R Quinn (Kilbarchan) 38min 8sec; 2, *D Wevers (Teviotdale)* 38:28; 3, T Murray (Inverclyde) 38:37. Women (6,400m): 1, A Mudge (Carnethy) 21:38; 2, T Brindley (Aberdeen) 21.58, 3, F Lothian (Fife) 22.09.

LONGMOOR: Army championships: Men (6 miles): 1, Cpl A Shepherd (24 Armd Fd Amb) 30min 14sec; 2, Cpl A Arrand (Trg Regt and Depot RLC) 30:18; 3, L Cpl P Clancy (216 Para Sig Sqn) 32:04. Teams: 1, 5 AB Bde Log Bn 383pts; 2, 3 CS Regiment RLC 515; 3, 3 (UK) Div and Sigs 598. Veterans: Capt S Lonnen (Trg Regt 7 Depot RLC) 34 17. Women (2.5 miles): 1, L Cpl N Dean (251 Signal Squadron) 16:51; 2, Capt L Higgs (APTC/ASPT) 17:08, 3, S Sgt M Bailey (Aborfield Garrison) 17.34. Teams: 1, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst 66; 2, Arborfield Garrison 121; 3, 7 Signal Regiment 130

Road running

CHICHESTER: South of England championships (10km): Men: 1, B Royden (Meadway) 29min 48sec; 2, S Hall (Plymouth) 30:35; 3, G Williams (Meadway) 30:40. Women: 1, D Percival (Meadway) 34:20; 2, J Harrop (Havant) 36:18; 3, J Comford (Brighton and Hove) 37.08

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Charlton v Wimbledon (8.0)

Tennent's Scottish Cup
Third-round replay
Ross County v Clydebank (7.45)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Carlisle Utd v Wigan (12.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Brighton (at Boreham Wood, 3.0). Fulham v Luton (1.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Preston v Manchester Utd (7.15). Stoke v Liverpool (7.0). Second division: Newcastle v Shrewsbury (7.0). League Cup: Group two: Hull v Barnsley (2.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v France (at Pride Park, 8.05)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Darlington v Carlisle (7.45)

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Dover v Farnborough (7.45); Forest Green v Kingstonian (7.45), Hereford v Woking (7.45), Rushden and Diamonds v Yeovil (7.45). Welling v Stevenage (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Albion v Cowdenbeath (7.30)

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Third-round replay: Dundee Utd v Queen's Park (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v The Army (7.15). Oxford v Oxford University (7.15)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v France (at Wembley, 8.0). Ireland v Paraguay (7.30)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six: Cyprus v San Marino (4.0). *Qualifying group eight: Malta v Yugoslavia (2.0)*

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle v Richmond (7.30)

CLUB MATCH: Cornwall v Royal Navy (at Launceston, 7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Semi-finals, first leg: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0), Sheffield Sharks v Manchester Giants (at Ponds Forge ISC, 7.45).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Nottingham Panthers (7.30)

THURSDAY

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Bracknell Bees (7.30); Newcastle Riverkings v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.15)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Colchester v Wigan (7.45). Third division: Rochdale v Hull (7.45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: *Wakefield v Batley (8.0)*

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v Derby Storm (7.30). Sheffield Sharks v Milton Keynes Lions (7.45)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

FA CUP: Fifth round: Arsenal v Sheffield Utd. Barnsley v Bristol Rovers. Everton v Coventry. Leeds v Tottenham, Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea, Huddersfield v Derby

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Charlton v Liverpool. West Ham v Nottingham Forest

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v West Bromwich. Bradford v Ipswich. Bristol City v Sunderland. Crystal Palace v Crewe. Oxford Utd v Swindon. Portsmouth v Bury. Stockport v Birmingham. *Tranmere v Queens Park Rangers*. Wolverhampton v Port Vale. Second division: Bournemouth v Manchester City. Burnley v Reading. Lincoln v Millwall. Luton v Wrexham. Macclesfield v Oldham. Northampton v Gillingham. Notts County v Blackpool. Preston v Wycombe. York v Walsall. Third division: Barnet v Cardiff. Brentford v Torquay. Brighton v Exeter. Cambridge Utd v Scunthorpe. Chester v Peterborough. Halifax v Southend. Hartlepool v Darlington. Mansfield v Leyton Orient. Plymouth v Rotherham. Shrewsbury v Scarborough. Swansea v Carlisle

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Barrow v Hayes. Doncaster v Yeovil. Dover v Hednesford. Farnborough v Hereford. Kettering v Telford. Kidderminster v Rushden and Diamonds. Morecambe v Cheltenham. Northwich v Southport. Stevenage v Kingstonian. Woking v Leek

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Ayr v Albion, Celtic v Dunfermline, Clydebank or Ross Co v Queen's Park or Dundee Utd. Greenock Morton v Clyde. Livingston v St Johnstone. Motherwell v Stirling; *Stranraer v Falkirk*.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Forfar v East Fife, Inverness CT v Queen of South. Third division: Brechin v Dumbarton, Cowdenbeath v Berwick, Queen's Park v Ross County. Stenhousemuir v Montrose.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bedford v Wasps (3.0). Gloucester v Harlequins (3.0). Leicester v London Irish (2.0). London Scottish v Newcastle (3.0). Second division: Bristol v Leeds (3.0). Coventry v Blackheath (3.0). Moseley v Rugby (3.0). Rotherham v Orrell (2.15). Wakefield v London Welsh. Waterloo v Exeter (2.15). Worcester v Fylde.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Henley v Nottingham (2.15); Lydney v Wharfedale (3.0). Morley v Manchester (3.0). Newbury v Camberley *(3.0)*. Otley v Harrogate (2.15). Reading v Liverpool St Helens. Rosslyn Park v Birmingham/Solihull. Second division north: Hinckley v Kendal; New Brighton v Sheffield. Nuneaton v Winnington Park, Preston Grasshoppers v Sedgley Park (2.15). Sandal v Walsall (2.15); Stourbridge v Aspatria; Whitchurch v Lichfield. Second division south: Barking v Plymouth. Bridgwater v Weston-super-Mare (3.0). Clifton v Bracknell. Esher v Cheltenham (3.0). Havant v North Walsham, Met Police v Redruth (3.0); Tabard v Norwich (2.15)

NPI CUP: Quarter-finals: Aldwinians v Maidstone; Barnstaple v Basingstoke, Dudley-Kingswinford v Sevenoaks, Ilkeston v Driffield

TETLEY'S BITTER VASE: Quarter-finals: North: Scarborough v Knottingley, [illegible] v Heaton Moor. South: Billericay v St Just: Old Tiffinians v Avon

SWALEC CUP: Fifth round: Cwmllynfell v *Pontypridd; Llanelli v Ynysybwl; Nantymoel v Bridgend*

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Neath v Aberavon. First division: Abertillery v UWIC, Dunvant v Rumney. Maesteg v Cross Keys; Newbridge v Merthyr; Pontypool v Llandovery, Tondu v Bonymaen, Tredegar v Blackwood; Treorchy v South Wales Police

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP: Quarter-finals: Kelso v Preston Lodge (3.0). Hawick or Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP (3.0). Melrose v Kilmarnock (3.0); Stewartry v Gala (3.0)

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Currie (3.0). Stirling County v West of Scotland (3.0), Watsonians v Glasgow Hawks (3.0). Second division: Kilmarnock v Dundee HSFP (3.0).

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Buccaneers, Blackrock Coll v Young Munster, Galwegians v Clontarf; Garryowen v Lansdowne, St Mary's v Shannon; Terenure v Cork Constitution

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Salford v Sheffield (3.0). Leigh MR v Hull KR (at Leigh, 3.0). Featherstone Lions v Halifax (at Post Office Road, 1.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: BUPA indoor meeting (at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30), Leicester Riders v Greater London Leopards (7.30), London Towers v Birmingham Bullets (5.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Sheffield Sharks (8.0). Worthing Bears v Manchester Giants (8.0).

BOXING: Telewest Arena: WBO super-middleweight title: J Calzaghe (Cardiff, holder) v R Reid (Runcorn). WBC super-middleweight title: R Woodhall (Telford) v V Nardiello (It). WBO light-middleweight title: H Simon (Namibia) v K Lueshing (Beckenham). WBO heavyweight title: H Hide (Norwich) v O Norris (US)

HOCKEY: Women's national league: Premier division: Hightown v Leicester (12.0); Ipswich v Clifton (12.0); Slough v Olton (12.0); Sutton v Doncaster (11.30).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0); Nottingham Panthers v Bracknell Bees (7.0). Sheffield Steelers v London Knights (7.0).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fifth round: Manchester Utd v Fulham (2.0); Newcastle v Blackburn (4.0)

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Hamilton v Rangers (6.05)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Richmond v Sale (3.0); Saracens v West Hartlepool (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Barrow v Leigh (2.0). Bradford v Workington; Castleford v Hull; Huddersfield v Swinton; Hunslet v St Helens; Leeds v Wigan (2.0); London v Doncaster (2.15); Rochdale v York, Warrington v Featherstone Rovers. Whitehaven v Lancashire Lynx. Widnes v Keighley

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Worthing Bears (5.30), Edinburgh Rocks v Milton Keynes Lions (5.0); Manchester Giants v Leicester Riders (7.10)

HOCKEY: Women's EHA Cup: Fifth round: Aldridge v Olton. Billingham v Fyffes Leicester; Canterbury v Doncaster; Chelmsford v Loughborough Students; Clifton v Ipswich, Ealing v Slough; Hightown v Tulse Hill; Woking Swifts v Bradford

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v London Knights (5.30); Bracknell Bees v Sheffield Steelers (6.0). Cardiff Devils v Nottingham Panthers (6.0)

Law Report February 8 1999 Queen's Bench Division

Duty of English clearing bank collecting stolen cheque

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple v Lloyds Bank plc and Another

Before Mr Justice Rix

[Judgment January 21]

Where an English clearing bank collected a stolen English cheque marked "a/c payee only", as agent for a foreign collecting bank, whose customer was not the payee of the cheque and who took off with the proceeds, the English clearing bank was liable to the true owner of the cheque.

The Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division so held in allowing a claim by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple that Lloyds Bank plc and Sekerbank Turk Anonim Sirketi were liable to Middle Temple in acting negligently in the conversion of Middle Temple's cheque.

Mr Antonio Bueno, QC and Mr Jake Davies for the Middle Temple; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr William Blair, QC, for Lloyds Bank; Mr Adrian Beltrami for Sekerbank.

MR JUSTICE RIX said that the dispute arose from what was assumed to be the theft in the post of a cheque drawn by the Middle *Temple payable* to its insurers, Sun Alliance Insurance Ltd, in the sum of £183,189.89 and drawn on its bankers Child and Co.

The cheque was *dated January* 4, 1995, crossed "Not negotiable. A/C payee only". The Cheques Act 1992 had come into force on June 16, 1992 and therefore applied to make such a cheque non-transferable under English law.

On January 11, the cheque turned up in Turkey where it was presented to the Istanbul (4 Levent) branch of Sekerbank by a man called Kamil Sesen who was not an existing customer *of that* bank. Sekerbank agreed to collect the cheque for Mr Sesen and sent it to Lloyd's Bank for collection.

On January 20, *the cheque* was debited by Child and Co to the Middle Temple's account. Also on January 20, Lloyds received a urgent message from Sekerbank which stated that its client was in a difficult position and urged them to credit the cheque promptly.

On January 23 it was credited to Lloyds and on January 24 by Lloyds to Sekerbank. On January 25 and 26, Mr Sesen withdrew the majority of the proceeds in cash from the account which it had been permitted by Sekerbank to open to receive the proceeds of the cheque.

On February 13 it was realised that the cheque had gone astray but had nevertheless been paid. Middle Temple and not Sun Alliance was to be treated as the true *owner of the cheque*.

Banking practice

His Lordship's conclusions derived from the evidence of witness*es as to banking practice* were:

1 Clearing banks continued to recognise a duty to the true owner even in respect of cheques sent for collection by foreign banks, indeed the law demanded that they did so, subject to their defence under section 4 of the Cheques Act 1957.

2 Clearing banks recognised a duty to have regard, within the practicalities of the process, to specific types of danger which came to their notice, such as that of counterfeit *cheque forms, or fraudulently over*stamped cheques.

What could be done in all the circumstances to guard against such dangers, and what in any particular situation might or might not be regarded as a discharge of their duty, was not for his Lordship to say.

3 As to the question of the identity of the foreign bank's customer in relation to the named payee of an a/c payee cheque, virtually every cheque nowadays, their general practice was to assume that the foreign bank had carried our the necessary inquiries and adopted the necessary precautions, and that that acquitted them of the need to give any similar consideration to such matters.

That assumption was necessitated by the fact that they were not in a position to know who the foreign bank's customer was, but equally it was based on a belief that the foreign bank was aware of what English law demanded.

In the case of the non-transferability of an a/c payee cheque following the 1992 Act, Lloyds' two major competitors, but not Lloyds itself, had informed their correspondent banks, or at any rate those who made major use of their services as agents for collection, of what the Act required.

4 Even though the banks gave no consideration in the ordinary way to the identity of the foreign bank's customer, if anything came to their notice in a particular case, they would make inquiries designed to protect the owner of the cheque.

Similarly, if it came to their notice that a correspondent bank appeared not to have regard for its obligations to the owners of cheques, they would take steps to put it right.

It seemed to his Lordship that that practice reflected, and was in essence consistent with the judgments in *Importers Co Ltd v Westminster Bank Ltd* ([1927] 2 KB 297), having regard to the changes in the law and to the growth of and increased automation applied to that class of business since that time.

Was Lloyds liable to Middle Temple?

The clearing bank which acted as agent *for collection for another* bank or financial institution, such as building society or post office, domestic or foreign, was dealing *with a customer which was inter*posed between it and the ultimate individual customer for whom the cheque was collected.

*Although the clearing bank con*tinued to owe a duty, in the *Marfani* sense (see *Marfani and Co Ltd v Midland Bank Ltd* ([1968] 1 WLR 956)) to the true owner of the cheque, it was in general entitled to consider that that duty would be performed by due reliance on its own customer to have regard for the interests of the true owner, since it was only its own customer which was in a position to know the circumstances in which the cheque was brought for collection and the identity of the ultimate customer who brought it.

However, the extent to which *the clearing bank was justified* in depending on its own customer in that sense must depend on all the circumstances.

Where a clearing bank was agent for collection for a domestic bank, it was entirely justified in assuming that the domestic bank knew the extent of its own responsibilities for the purposes of collecting an "a/c payee" cheque since the enactment of the 1992 Act.

Where, however, the clearing *bank was acting on behalf of a for*eign correspondent bank, it did not necessarily follow that it was justified similarly and to the same extent in assuming that the foreign bank was aware of its responsibilities under English law.

The change effected by the 1992 Act was a case in point. Despite what must have been long familiarity with the "a/c payee" crossing, a foreign banker would not have known, without being aware of the 1992 Act itself, that such a crossing now made an English cheque non-transferable.

A foreign bank would not have known, unless it had been aware of the of the 1992 Act that following that Act such a cheque could only be paid to the named payee.

Midland bank thought it right to advise its correspondent banks of the change effected by the 1992 Act, and Barclays Bank did much the same. Lloyds thought of doing the same but in the end decided not to do so.

In his Lordship's judgment Midland and Barclays acted prudently and Lloyds did not. Lloyds was unable to say that it had followed good banking practice.

In his Lordship's judgment, Lloyds had not shown that it had done what it could have done and, in accordance with good banking *practice, should have done to in*form Sekerbank of the effect of the 1992 Act.

Lloyds could not sustain the burden of showing that Sekerbank would probably have made the same error if a Lloyds letter had been sent. Lloyds had failed to show that the precaution of a letter in explanation of the 1992 Act would have been of no use and therefore failed to bring itself within the statutory defence under sec*tion 4 of the 1957 Act*.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Goldsmith that an agent for collection like Lloyds owed the same duty to the owner of every cheque, whether it was for £10 or for £100,000.

His Lordship was not, however, to be thought of as agreeing that a bank would acquit itself of that duty of care in a particular case concerning a cheque for a very large amount by treating it in exactly the same way as a cheque for a very small amount.

It might be possible that a cheque for a large amount would come forward in circumstances which, at any rate when that cheque had come to the attention of management, would or ought to put the bank on inquiry.

In his Lordship's judgment, Lloyds had failed to prove that it was not put on inquiry. If it had started asking questions of Sekerbank, it seemed obvious that the fraud would have been discovered. It followed that Lloyds could not escape liability to the Middle Temple.

That result properly reflected a balance between the interests of *the true owners of cheques*, the policy of the 1992 Act, the fight against fraud, the interests of the clearing banks and the importance of their business, and the practicalities of such business, all in the context of banking practice.

Lloyds was therefore responsible for the conversion of Middle Temple's cheque

Was Sekerbank liable to the Middle Temple?

It seemed to his Lordship to be the grossest negligence for the 4 Levent branch to accept an English cheque payable to an English company in sterling for a large sum of *money from a stranger who was* not at that time an existing customer, even if he did come with a reference from a customer, without, as the evidence went, him being asked for or supplying a reasonable explanation as to why he was in possession of such a cheque or wanted a bank to collect it for him.

Sekerbank had failed to bring itself within its section 4 of the 1957 Act defence and was liable to Middle Temple in conversion.

Could Sekerbank claim an indemnity from Lloyds on the ground of its mandate or on the ground of Lloyds' breach of duty to it ?

On the evidence of banking practice as between Sekerbank and Lloyds, it was Sekerbank's duty to ensure that it was collecting for the right customer and true owner.

Could Lloyds claim an indemnity against Sekerbank pursuant to an implied indemnity or warranty?

An important distinction was to be made between the case where the agent was in breach of some duty vis-à-vis the party which had requested him to act, and the case where the agent was in breach of some duty to a third party.

In the former case, there was good reason to think that the implied indemnity could not be intended to cover the agent's default *vis-à-vis a requesting party*.

Where, however, the negligence was vis-a-vis a third party, as in the present case, his Lordship did not see why the implied indemnity should not operate, since ex hypothesi, the agent could only be liable in a case of negligence.

Where, however, the agent for collection was not in breach of any duty vis-à-vis its correspondent bank, his Lordship did not see why the implied indemnity could not *avail the agent, unless of course it* had acted in bad faith or in any way which was to its knowledge or manifestly unlawful, or has acted outside its authority.

Mr Goldsmith's reliance on the alternative of an implied warranty, to the effect that Sekerbank's customer was entitled to have the proceeds of the cheque paid to him was entirely justified: see *Sheffield Corporation v Barclay* ([1905] AC 392, 402-403), *Kai Yung and Others v Hong Kong and Shangai Banking Corporation* ([1981] AC 757, 789-789).

Where a bank asked its English agent for collection to collect English cheques crossed "a/c payee", his Lordship did not understand how without some express disclaimer, it could say that it had not warranted that its customer was entitled to the proceeds.

Therefore, either because of an implied idemnity or because of an implied warranty, but in his Lordship's judgment for both reasons, Lloyds was entitled to be indemni*fied by Sekerbank against its loss* by reason of carrying out Sekerbank's instructions or request.

Contribution

Both Lloyds and Sekerbank were liable to the Middle Temple in respect of the same damage and his Lordship was entitled to order contribution under section 2(1) of the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978 on the basis of what was just and equitable.

Where, however, Lloyds was entitled to a complete indemnity, as his Lordship just held, the appropriate order for the purposes of the Act was again a complete indemni*ty, as section 2(2) of the 1978 Act al*lowed. Sekerbank was therefore entitled to no contribution from Lloyds.

In conclusion, Middle Temple had succeeded against both Lloyds and Sekerbank and Lloyds was entitled to a complete indemnity against Sekerbank.

Solicitors: Hardwick Stallards; Richards Butler; Izod Evans.

Malingering must be pleaded

Cooper v P & O Stena Line Ltd

Before Miss Belinda Bucknall, QC

[Judgment October 30, 1998]

An allegation of malingering in a personal injuries action was a serious allegation of fraud. As such it was required to be specifically pleaded by Order 18, rule 8(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Miss Belinda Bucknall, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court in the Admiralty Court, so held, giving judgment for the plaintiff, John Edward Cooper against the defendant, P & O Stena Line *Ltd, for personal injuries suffered* as a result of an accident on the defendant's vessel, and awarding damages and ordering indemnity costs against P & O.

Mr Timothy Lord for Mr Cooper; Mr Grahame Aldous for P & O.

HER LADYSHIP said that in September 1994 Mr Cooper was employed by P & O as a supernumerary steward on board their vessel The Pride of Bruges.

On February 22, 1995 Mr Cooper complained to the senior purser that he had suffered an accident while fetching plates from the C *deck plate house, and had hurt his* back. He was given painkillers and managed to complete his shift.

Mr Cooper completed a *standard form accident report detailing* the complaint. The following day he went to see his general practitioner complaining of terrible pain *in his back and down his left leg*. He never returned to work.

Mr Cooper's case was that while the vessel was in port he went to the plate room to collect some plates. As he was leaving, carrying the plates, the vessel lurched unexpectedly.

The plate room floor was awash with three inches of water, and that caused him to slip. He fell backwards against a large metal plate rack, striking his lower left back in the process.

Investigation by his general practitioner revealed no damage to any bone or spinal disc. The pain persisted. The following year he was referred to a specialist in pain management and was diagnosed as suffering from secondary fibromyalgia, secondary because it was triggered by the accident.

All efforts to relieve Mr Cooper's pain were unsuccessful. Mr Cooper still complained of severe and disabling pain which prevented him from undertaking any sort of work and which had radically changed his life for the worse.

At 4.15pm on the fifth day of the trial P & O withdrew their defence on liability and further withdrew *their allegations of contributory* negligence.

P & O further alleged that Mr Cooper ought to have recovered *from his injury by, at the latest*, three months after the accident and that since then he had been fab*ricating his symptoms and his disability, and distorting physical signs* for his own ends.

That allegation was maintained to the end. The allegation was one of fraud. It if had been made good Mr Cooper would have been exposed to the possibility of criminal proceedings.

Surprisingly, given the serious nature of the allegation, the body of the defence contained no pleading to support it. Her Ladyship did not consider it satisfactory that an allegation as serious as fraud, which was required by Order 18, rule 8(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to be pleaded, should be capable *of ascertainment only* by conducting a paper chase through the medical reports.

Mr Aldous told the court that it *was not the usual practice to plead* malingering. If that were so, the usual practice was in disregard of Order 18, which was itself a reflection of common justice. Her Ladyship had asked for the allegation to be pleaded and given leave for the necessary amendment.

There were respects in which P & O's discovery was unsatisfactory. The most serious was the failure to disclose the carpenter's diary. *The carpenter was the person* on board the vessel who had the task of unblocking drains. From the carpenter's records it appeared that scope for blocking the scupper pipes existed at the time of the accident.

During the senior purser's evidence it emerged that there was a further record which had not been disclosed, a book in which reported problems were recorded and ticked off as they were dealt with.

During the course of the fifth day of trial it was revealed that still further records relating to day-to-day safety matters existed but had not been disclosed.

It was that final revelation which caused counsel for P & O to ask for a short adjournment and *then announce the withdrawal of* the defence to liability and contributory negligence.

In closing submissions counsel *for P & O said that he did not invite* the court to draw any inferences from Mr Cooper's evidence about the circumstances of the accident. That did not deal sufficiently with the matter.

It was not right that Mr Cooper and his fellow employees should have been cross-examined in a public courtroom on the basis that they were not telling the truth on the various factual issues relating to liability and for there to be no clear decision on the point.

Her Ladyship therefore stated that she found the evidence of Mr Cooper and his fellow employees *in relation to the issue of liability* was entirely honest. The fact that P & O failed to prove dishonesty on the part of Mr Cooper as to the issue of liability left them with very little basis for maintaining their allegation of malingering.

Nevertheless, they sought to discredit him by reference to various matters. Her Ladyship was not persuaded of the merit of any of them.

Mr Cooper satisfied her Ladyship that his pain was genuine, severe and *disabling. It followed that* P & O's case in fraud was rejected.

Her Ladyship awarded damages under a *number of heads*, including £30,000 for pain, suffering and loss of amenity in view of the bleak prognosis and the devastating effect the accident had had on Mr Cooper.

An application was made for costs on an indemnity basis. Under Order 62, rule 3(4) the court had a discretion which could only be exercised if there were grounds which made it appropriate to make such an order. There was a surprising dearth of authority on the principles upon which orders for costs on an indemnity basis *should* be made.

The most helpful modern case was *Bank of Baroda v Panessar* ([1987] Ch 335) which established the principle that if a person con*ducted himself on a wholly false* basis, the true state of affairs being within that person's knowledge, or at least capable of ascertainment if properly investigated, and the proceedings were thereby significantly prolonged and the costs commensurately increased, the court was entitled to order that person to pay the costs of any party adversely affected by that conduct on an indemnity basis.

The resistance to the case on liability was one which, in the end, P & O had to abandon on the fifth day of trial. If the case had been properly investigated by P & O, if *the senior purser and the duty safety* officer had troubled to go and look at the scene of the accident and if they had had regard to the carpenter's records, it seemed very unlikely that liability would have been defended at all.

As far as quantum was concerned, the defence was based upon the allegation of fraud which had failed in its entirety, and in her Ladyship's view there had never been sufficient material upon *which that allegation could proper*ly be based. In those circumstances it was, unusually, a proper case for costs to be awarded on the indemni*ty basis*.

Solicitors: Argles & Court, Maidstone; Hill Taylor Dickinson.

Both fail honest practice test

Emaco Ltd and Another v Dyson Appliances Ltd

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker

[Judgment January 26]

The publication of a misleading document containing a number of false representations about a competitor's product was "otherwise than in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters".

Accordingly it fell within the proviso of section 10(6) of the Trade Marks Act 1994 so that the use of the competitor's trade mark in the publication constituted an infring*ing use*.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division, dismissing reciprocal claims for mali*cious falsehood brought by the* plaintiffs, Emaco Ltd and Aktiebolaget Electrolux, and the defendants, Dyson Appliances Ltd, but upholding reciprocal claims for infringement of trade mark in relation to each party's promotional material.

Section 10 of the 1994 Act provides: "(6) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this section shall be construed as preventing the use of a registered trade mark by any person for the purpose of identifying goods or services as those of the proprietor or a licensee. But any such use otherwise than in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters shall be treated as infringing the registered trade mark if the use without due cause takes unfair advantage of, or is detrimental to, the distinctive character or repute of the trade mark."

Mr Patrick Milmo, QC and Mr Iain Purvis for the plaintiffs; Mr Peter Prescott, QC and Mr Daniel Alexander for the defendants

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that the case was about comparative advertising with each side complaining about advertising material put out by the other allegedly containing false comparisons between their respective products.

The plaintiffs made electric vacuum cleaners under the trade mark "Electrolux". The defendants, Dyson Appliances Ltd, carried on business in competition with Electrolux in the manufacture and distribution of domestic electric vacuum cleaners under the registered trade mark "Dyson".

Electrolux accused Dyson of malicious falsehood made in relation to statements made by Dyson about Electrolux's "EPS" machine, to the general effect that it was less efficient than a competing product marketed by Dyson and known as the *"DCO1"*.

One of statements of which Electrolux complained took the form of a graph published by Dyson pur*porting to compare the suction* power of the EPS unfavourably with that of the DCO1.

Dyson retaliated by counter*claiming for injunctive relief* and damages on the ground of malicious falsehood in respect of a flyer published by Electrolux, comparing the DCO1 unfavourably with the EPS.

As a secondary line of attack both Electrolux and Dyson claimed infringement of trade mark in relation to the graph and flyer respectively. In his Lordship's judgment, although neither the graph nor the flyer was published maliciously, each was a thoroughly misleading, containing a number of false representations.

Citing *Vodaphone Group plc v Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd* ([1997] FSR 34) and *Cable and Wireless plc v British Telecommunications plc* ([1998] FSR 383) with approval, his Lordship said that the test for honest practice in section 10(6) was an objective one.

Given that view, the conclusion was inescapable that in each case the use made of the competitor's trade mark was "otherwise than in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters" within the meaning of the proviso.

To hold the publication of such documents to be an honest practice would, in his Lordship's view, render the proviso of negligible practical use or effect.

Solicitors: Bristows; Herbert Smith.

Intention to possess land by conduct

Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Waterloo Real Estate Inc

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Robert Walker and *Lord Justice Tuckey*

[Judgment January 22]

For a claimant to establish the necessary intention to possess land by his conduct, that conduct *had to be* unequivocal in the sense that his intention to possess had been made plain to the world.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Prudential Assurance Company Ltd against a decision of Mr Justice *Park* in the Chancery Division (*The Times* May 13, 1998) that Waterloo Real Estate Inc possessed the whole of a seven-metre stretch of wall facing Raphael Street, Knightsbridge, by having

(i) paper title to its northern face, now part of the structure of the Normandie Hotel, and

(ii) enjoyed for more than 12 years possession of its southern face adverse to Prudential, the owner of paper title to its southern face.

Mr Timothy Bowles and Mr Robert Clay for Prudential; Mr Robin Purchas, QC and Mr Guy *Newey for Waterloo*.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge had rightly identified five conditions for Waterloo to satisfy for adverse possession:

(i) the Normandie must have had possession of the southern half of the wall; (ii) that possession must have been exclusive; (iii) the paper *owner* must have been dispossessed or must have discontinued possession; (iv) the Normandie must have had the intention to possess *that half of* the wall; and (v) the possession must have been adverse possession in the statutory sense.

Mr Bowles submitted, inter alia, that on condition (iv) the judge was wrong to limit the applicability of Mr Justice Slade's test in *Powell v McFarlane* ((1979) 38 P & CR 452, 472) to the case of a conscious trespasser.

If, and in so far as the judge was suggesting a different test for a case where there was a trespasser who was not aware that he was trespassing, their Lordships would respectfully disagree with the judge.

That would be *inconsistent with* the approach of the Court of Appeal in *Wilson v Martin's Executors* ([1993] 1 EGLR 178).

Mr Purchas submitted that it was only when the conduct of the claimant was equivocal that the requirement to make plain the claimant's intention to the world arose.

Their Lordships thought that the position was simpler than that. For a claimant to establish the necessary intention by his conduct, that conduct must be unequivocal in the sense that his intention to possess had been made plain to the world.

If his conduct had not been made plain, his claim would fail.

That, as it seemed to their Lordships, was the clear sense of the passage from the judgment of Mr Justice Slade in *Powell* (at p472). It would plainly be unjust for the paper owner to be deprived of his land where the claimant had not by his conduct made clear to the *world including the paper owner*, if present at the land, for the requisite period that he was intending to possess the land.

The claimant must, of course, be shown to have the subjective intention to possess the land, but he must also show by his outward conduct that that was his intention.

It was not clear to their Lordships that it was Mr Justice Park's intention to suggest that a different test applied for the unconscious trespasser.

Mr Bowles further submitted that the paper owner and any given notional member of the world at large must be aware of the true nature of the rights of the paper owner in the disputed land, as otherwise they could not tell from the *conduct of the claimant whether or* not he intended to exclude the paper owner from land to which the paper owner was entitled: see the *reference by Mr Justice Slade in Powell* (at p478) to "any objective observer".

Their Lordships noted that Mr Justice Slade's words should be understood in context. They provided slight support for Mr Bowles' suggested principle and their Lordships would be reluctant to introduce into that now well-understood area of the law further tests, particularly those of an artificial nature.

There mighty be real uncertainty, incapable of being resolved save by litigation, as to the true nature of the paper owner's rights, but it could not be correct that that could affect a claimant, who with the in*tention of taking exclusive posses*sion overtly treated the disputed land as his own.

What was important was wheth*er the claimant's conduct was* unequivocally that of a person asserting possession to the exclusion of any other or whether it was referable to the rights which the claimant already had: see *George Wimpey & Co Ltd v Sohn* ([1967] Ch 487).

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; *Linklaters & Paines*.

No contact presumption

D-R v D-R and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, *Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice* Clarke

[Judgment February 2]

There was no presumption of a right to contact between a parent and an adult child, albeit one suffering from mental incapacity.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal brought by a father against the refusal by Mr Michael Horowitz, QC, sitting as a *deputy High Court judge* on July 2, 1998, of his application under the inherent jurisdiction of the court and invoking Order 14, rule 16 of *the Rules of the Supreme Court*, for contact with his daughter.

Mr Nicholas O'Brien for the father; Miss Samantha King for the mother; Miss Angela Hodes for the guardian ad litem.

*LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-*SLOSS said that the daughter, now aged 19, was born with cerebral palsy with severe impediment *of her cognitive and communica*tion faculties.

The mother and father never married but had lived together for *a number of years. They separated* in 1987 and the relationship between the mother and father and also the father and an older child *was virtually non-existent*.

The question for consideration concerning an adult with a disability was whether it was in her best in*terests to have contact: see In re F (Sterilisation: Mental Patient)* ([1990] 2 AC 1).

It was necessary to look at all the circumstances where there was conflict between members of the family. There was no presumption of a right to contact between a parent and an adult child.

The judge had correctly identified the relevant factors in the case and there was no error of principle and no reason to intervene.

Her Ladyship wished to add that since the lapse of the parens patriae jurisdiction of the court since the passing of the Mental Health Act 1983 there was a gap in the procedure and law formerly available. The bridge in that gap filled by the Court of Appeal and House of Lords in *In re F* was a poor substitute for legislation.

Solicitors: Bennett & Ryan, Isleworth; Scott-Moncrieff Harbour & Sinclair; Capsticks, Putney.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,958.00	Allied Domecq	474	+ 5	5.3	12.4
150.00	Bulmer (HP)	284	- 2½	6.6	12.7
8.30	Burn Stewart	14	- ½		
23,701.50	Diageo	661½	- 10½	3.0	20.0
57.00	Glenmorangie A	640	- 22½	2.8	17.4
338.70	Highland Dist	253½	+ 1	4.6	11.6
7.42	Morgan W	29	- ¼		
3,711.70	SA Breweries	1037½	+ 81½	3.5	15.5

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18,193.10	ABN-AMRO	1275	- 93½	3.1	15.4
16,699.30	Abbey Ntl	1181	- 13	3.4	17.4
4,426.70	Alliance & Leic	758	+ 3	3.7	14.5
9,599.50	Allied Irish	1116	- 66½	1.7	31.7
6,473.30	Aus New Z	417½	+ 17	5.0	
65,091.00	Bank America	3762½	- 184½		
10,372.20	Bank Scotland	838½	- 72	1.6	21.0
21,457.10	Barclays	1421	+ 61	3.4	13.0
6,704.00	Bk of Ireland	1305½	- 64½	2.2	21.4
7,205.20	Commerzbk	1784½	34½	2.2	
11,247.20	Dai Ichi Kan	359½	- 9½	1.3	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

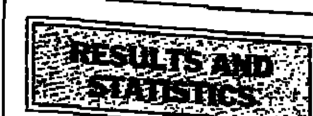
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED





TODAY

Interims: IAF Group, Pizza-Express. **Finals:** Delphi Group, Gowrings, Jordec Group. **Economic statistics:** December industrial/manufacturing output.

TOMORROW

Interims: BOC Group (q1), British Airways (q3), Charterhouse Communicatons, Epic Group, Stoves Group. **Finals:** Gartmore British & Growth, Reuters. **Economic statistics:** British Retail Consortium January retail sales monitor, Confederation of British Industry February regional trends survey.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BSkyB, Jersey Phoenix Trust, JSB Software Technologies. **Finals:** Medeva, Scottish American Investment. **Economic statistics:** Bank of England quarterly inflation report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Armitage Brothers, British Telecom (q3). **Finals:** Britannia Smaller Companies Trust, Inn Business Group, Royal Dutch/Shell (q4), RPS Group. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

FRIDAY

Interims: Torex. **Finals:** Hercules Incorporated. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.62	2.44
Austria Sch	21.00	19.34
Belgium Fr	61.81	56.85
Canada $	2.560	2.372
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8869	0.8154
Denmark kr	11.39	10.50
Egypt	5.80	5.19
Finland Mkk	9.19	8.44
France Fr	10.00	9.22
Germany Dm	3.005	2.763
Greece Dr	494	455
Hong Kong $	13.55	12.35
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17987	12987
Ireland Pt	1.1990	1.1100
Israel Shk	7.06	6.40
Italy Lira	2989	2752
Japan Yen	201.06	183.53
Malta	0.668	0.609
Netherlds Gld	3.393	3.098
New Zealand $	3.12	2.88
Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Portugal Esc	303.90	281.87
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.55
Spain Pta	253.29	234.50
Sweden Kr	13.68	12.58
Switzerland Fr	2.478	2.260
Turkey Lira	570388	532476
USA $	1.748	1.605

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





Clouds gathering over Reuters

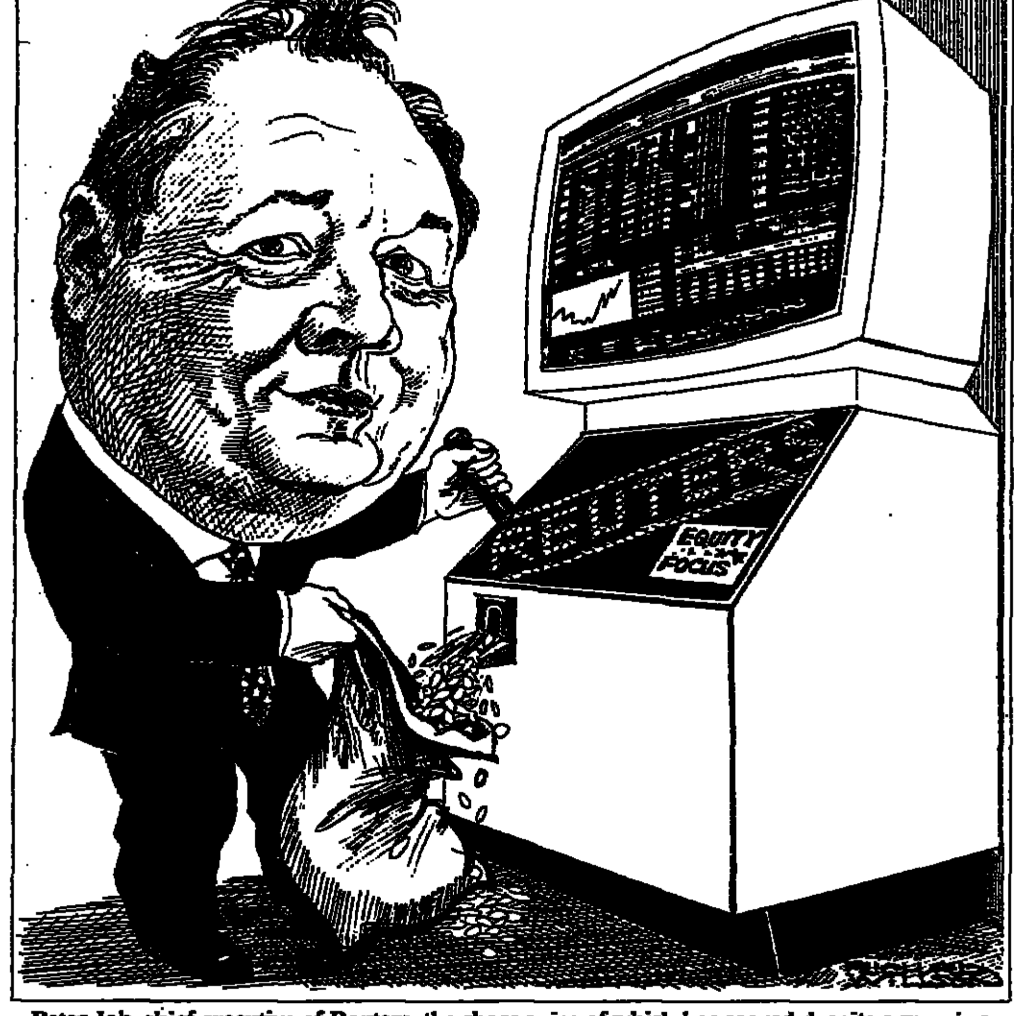
REUTERS: Shares in the international news agency and financial information supplier have been riding high, despite the warning in December that 1999 would prove to be another difficult year.

Full-year results due tomorrow, are unlikely to contain much to excite the City. Brokers are forecasting a downturn in profits, with the group hit by the world economic slowdown, adverse currency movements and slow growth in its Instinet share trading subsidiary.

Profits at the pre-tax level should come in at between £580 million and £610 million, which compares with £677 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be unmoved at 29p.

While the group continues to enjoy strong revenue growth, the storm clouds are gathering. The contraction of the financial services market has prompted banks to cancel contracts. Instinet is also under growing competitive pressure.

Shareholders can expect to receive a payout of 14.3p, an increase of 10 per cent.



Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters, the share price of which has soared despite a warning

BRITISH TELECOM: Last week the group cheered the City by announcing plans for a further £5 billion of investment over the next five years in its European networks. But the group is unlikely to offer much cheer when it unveils third-quarter numbers on Thursday.

Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits before exceptionals of between £730 million and £790 million, against £780 million for the corresponding period.

Exceptional costs during the period are forecast at about £20 million, relating to the extrication of MCI Communications from BT's concert alliance following its merger with WorldCom.

In the same quarter last year BT registered a £238 million exceptional profit relating to fees paid after the breakdown of negotiations between BT and MCI, giving headline pre-tax profits of £1 billion. BT's domestic performance is expected to be robust.

Associate losses are forecast at about £90 million, resulting from start-up operations in Europe.

BT's deal with AT&T to form a joint venture company providing international services for corporate clients is undergoing regulatory scrutiny.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: The world's favourite airline suffered from a bad case of turbulence last year. This was reflected in the share price, which went into a nosedive midway through.

So, it seems unlikely that third-quarter results, due out tomorrow, will give shareholders much to cheer. BT Alex Brown has been moved to downgrade its profit forecasts for both the current year and 2000 after recent poor traffic numbers. This time it is predicting a drop in pre-tax profits from £339 million to £245 million.

Premium traffic dropped 4 per cent, while economy class was up almost 13 per cent. Currency factors will have continued to take a toll on profitability, with the group's exposure to the yen likely to make a dent of £130 million. The payout is expected to grow from 4.7p to 5.2p.

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: The falling oil price will leave a sizeable scar when the oil group unveils final results on Thursday.

Analysts are looking for a drop in net profits from $1.6S billion (£1 billion) to between $855 million and $1.13 billion. The group made $841 billion in the third quarter. The results will reflect low oil prices, falling global demand for the group's products and massive restructuring costs.

In December, Shell unveiled one of the most sweeping restructuring programmes in its 100-year history, including a $4.5 billion restructuring charge, the sale of 40 per cent of its worldwide chemicals operations and wider-ranging reductions in operating costs and capital expenditure. The group also ruled out the need for a merger, bucking the sector trend, which has seen British Petroleum merge with Amoco and Exxon propose a merger with Mobil.

A final dividend of between 8p and 8.75p is on the cards.

LLOYDS TSB: the first of the banks to reveal its results next week, is expected to announce profits in the range of £2.9 billion to £3.2 billion, compared with about £3.1 billion last year.

Profits were dented by the pensions mis-selling scandal. The bank is expected to reveal that compensating those that have been mis-sold a personal pension will cost £200 million to £300 million, as the pensions industry gears up to the second phase of the review.

Lloyds TSB, in common with all the banks, faced pressure on margins last year, as the mutual building societies grabbed the lion's share of the mortgage market by offering cheaper deals.

The bank, through C&G, its mortgage subsidiary, suffered as a result. The mortgage market in total grew by only 6 per cent last year, or £26 billion in total, with new entrants, such as Standard Life, taking increasing chunks of the market.

However, Lloyds TSB looks unlikely to have too much exposure to last year's problems in the emerging markets of the Far East and South America.

Other banks, such as Barclays, through its Barclays Capital, and HSBC and Standard Chartered, have much greater exposure to problems in this area.

BSKYB: It will be the digital numbers that claim centre stage rather than the profit numbers when the satellite broadcaster unveils interim results on Wednesday.

The company, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is expected comfortably to exceed the 200,000 subscribers originally targeted for the end of 1998. It is also hoped that at least a quarter of that number will be new customers to BSkyB.

Mike Hilton, an analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, said that it is crucial that "new-to-Sky" customers account for about 30 per cent of the digital total in the three-month period.

In the meantime, the start-up costs of digital will have hit profits for the group as a whole. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £90 million and £100 million, which compares with £128.6 million last time. Earnings per share will also have declined by almost 40 per cent to about 4p.

The payout is likely to be pegged at 2.75p. There is unlikely to be any fresh news on the group's attempt to takeover Manchester United, a move that has been referred the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

On trail of clues to cuts

After last week's surprise half-point cut in interest rates, the market will be desperate to learn whether the Bank of England now intends to pause for reflection or is intent on sending rates lower than most analysts have been predicting.

The Bank's *Quarterly Inflation Report*, to be published on Wednesday, will provide a strong clue as to the Monetary Policy Committee's current thinking, with economists expecting a sharp downgrade in the Bank's forecasts for growth and greater comment on the downside risks to inflation.

There is only a smattering of UK data during the week to throw light on the current economic position. Today, the industrial production figures will confirm that the manufacturing sector continues to struggle and will move closer officially to placing the sector in recession. The City is forecasting a 0.2 per cent contraction in manufacturing output in December, leaving the annual rate also in negative territory, with a 0.2 per cent drop predicted. A fall in energy output, because of mild weather, should also result in a decline in overall industrial production. Producer prices data, also released today, will continue to show manufacturers facing price deflation. Factory gate prices are expected to show no increase in January, leaving the annual rate of growth also at zero. Input prices will continue to fall. MMS International, the economics forecasting group, is predicted raw material prices will show a monthly rise of 0.5 per cent, leaving prices year-on-year some 6.9 per cent lower.

In the US, Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, will again be the centre of attention when he appears before the House Banking Committee on Thursday. With US growth continuing to surprise on the upside, analysts will be anxiously watching for any sign that the Fed is now considering tightening rates as a pre-emptive blow against renewed inflation. The US retail sales data, which are published on the same day, will show US consumers still spending strongly, with retail sales expected to record a monthly rise of 0.3 per cent.

In Europe, the German industrial output and unemployment figures could add to the current gloom over the health of the euroland economy.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: **Buy** Reuters, Anglo Irish Bank, Senior Engineering, Capital Shopping Centres. *The Sunday Times*: **Buy** Dana Petroleum, Birkby, Winchester, Durlacher. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Manganese Bronze, Scottish & Southern Energy. *The Observer*: **Buy** Reuters. *The Express on Sunday*: **Buy** ASW, Cantab Pharmaceuticals, Britt Allcroft.

Power sector awaits court verdict on pension surpluses

By Gavin Lumsden

THE Court of Appeal will reveal this week whether electricity companies or their employees have won the latest round in an epic battle for control of up to £2 billion of "surplus" money generated by their industry's pension fund.

The court is expected to deliver its ruling on Wednesday on the lengthy legal dispute between National Grid and two of its former employees over the way it used pension surpluses in the early 1990s.

Ownership of pension surpluses has become an increasingly vexed issue in industrial relations in recent years as strong stock market growth has seen many company pension schemes make far more money from their investments than they need to meet their obligations to pensioners.

The verdict on the National Grid — which controversially used £46.3 million of surplus pension money to fund a programme of early redundancies — will have an immediate impact on a number of similar cases pending in other industries. However, its significance is greatest for the electricity sector. After a last-minute rule change last year, a National Grid victory would allow other power companies to stop contributing towards their workers' pensions altogether. The case began two years ago when former National Grid employees David Laws and Reg Mayes won a landmark victory. The pensions ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, ruled that the privatised power firm had wrongfully misused the surpluses for its own benefit.



Farrand: backed employees

The verdict shocked the 21 other privatised electricity generators, many of which had exploited more than £1 billion of surpluses from the industry's Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, which controls over £15.5 billion of assets for 200,000 members.

National Grid appealed, however, and last year succeeded in overturning the ombudsman's decision in the High Court. If the pensioners' appeal goes against it, National Grid has indicated it will apply for leave to go to the House of Lords.

More deals expected as French defence firms link

From Adam Sage in Paris

THE French Government has finalised the merger between Aérospatiale and Matra Hautes Technologies that is likely to presage the next round of European defence and aerospace industry restructuring.

The deal, which will take the state-owned Aérospatiale into the private sector, will be announced this week, barring last-minute difficulties, according to Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister.

Executives of the new group are likely to open talks with their compatriots at Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group, with a view to creating a French "champion" to rival the British giant formed by British Aerospace and GEC.

A second option under consideration is for Aérospatiale-Matra to link up with Daimler-Chrysler (Dasa) of Germany.

The terms of the Aérospatiale privatisation will go some way towards clarifying the future of a continental defence industry that has not yet got over its anger at the deal between BAe and GEC.

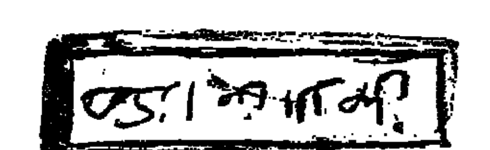
Matra Hautes Technologies, the defence division of the private Lagadère group, will get about 33 per cent of the new group, and Aérospatiale's employees about 5 per cent.

The French Government originally planned to keep 46 to 48 per cent of the capital and float the rest on the stock exchange. But Dasa will not contemplate a tie-up with Aérospatiale-Matra unless the French state reduces its stake further.

There is political pressure in Paris for a link-up between Aérospatiale-Matra, which will have an annual revenue of about Fr81 billion (£8.4 billion), and Thomson-CSF, which has a turnover of about Fr38 billion.

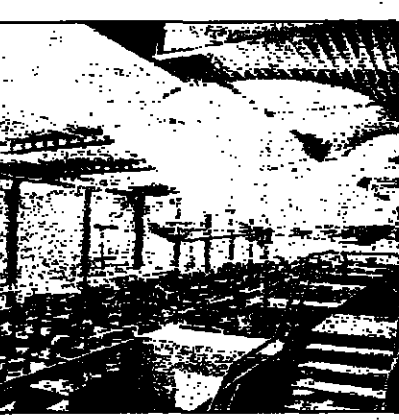
With stakes of more than 40 per cent in both groups, the Government could force a merger as a "response to English nationalism". But the groups' executives would resist any such move, preferring European alliances.





CORPORATE PROFILE: Orange






Orange has taken great care over its image, from its striking advertising campaigns, top right, to its efforts to disguise its mobile phone masts or hide them in church spires. Hans Snook has overseen its emergence as Britain's third-largest mobile phone company, which is mainly staffed by call centre operators

THE FACTS

Sales: £914 million for the year ending December 31, 1997. Results for 1998 to be announced on February 25.

Pre-tax losses: £139 million.

Subscribers: 2.16 million in the UK, of which 487,000 are pre-pay, at December 31, 1998. In addition, the company has 234,000 subscribers in France and 266,000 in Germany at June 30, 1998.

Market value: £10.4 billion.

Employees: 5,000.

THE BOARD

The chief executive of Orange is **Hans Snook**, 50, who was born in Germany, but brought up in Canada. Mr Snook is a graduate of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and launched his career in the catering industry.

Mr Snook later moved to Hong Kong, where he ran a telephone paging service for Hutchison Whampoa, the investment group. In 1993 Hutchison decided to move Mr Snook to London to launch its UK mobile phone company, Orange.

Orange has only two other executive directors: its 37-year-old finance director, **Graham Howe**, and **Colin Tucker**.

Mr Howe was appointed in 1996 after working as finance director for Hutchison's telecoms business in the UK.

Mr Tucker, Orange's 54-year-old technical and operations director, is a former industrial professor at the University of Loughborough. He joined the company in 1991 after holding several engineering-related positions at Plessey Telecoms.

In addition, Orange has nine non-executive directors, most of whom represent the company's largest shareholders, Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace.

These non-executives include **Canning Fok**, managing director of Hutchison Whampoa and Orange's chairman, and **Richard Lapthorne**, finance director of BAe.

Orange also boasts three heavyweight bankers as non-executive directors: **John Bond**, chief executive of HSBC; **Paul Myners**, chief executive of NatWest Wealth Management; and **Don Fullerton**, chairman of the executive committee of CIBC.

If any company in the FTSE 100 could define the corporate spirit of the 1990s it would probably be Orange. Britain's third-largest mobile phone company is staffed mainly by call centre operators, it has never made a profit, yet it has a stock market value of more than £10 billion. The company's brand alone — made famous by the classic marketing slogan "the future's bright, the future's Orange" — has been individually valued at £1.8 billion.

Yet, at present, it is far from certain whether the future will be bright, or indeed Orange. As far as the company's profit and loss account goes, it is more likely to be red, at least until next year. Given this tentative financial position, and competition from the mighty £67 billion combination of Vodafone and AirTouch, some believe that Orange may even face a long-term future as part of a different organisation.

Orange was created in 1994 by Hutchison Whampoa — the Hong Kong investment group controlled by the billionaire tycoon Li Ka-shing — and British Aerospace. The launch of the company was an enormous gamble for Hutchison, which had already failed to break into the UK mobile phone market with a doomed venture called Rabbit a year earlier.

Before Orange launched, many thought the British mobile phone market — which at that time *had just two million* customers — was already too crowded. That prediction turned out to be very wrong: a staggering 2.5 million mobile phones were sold this Christmas alone. Orange did, however, face stiff competition: Vodafone and Cellnet were already *established and One2One* had just been launched. Yet Orange was convinced there was a place for a mobile phone group with a strong, aspirational brand, which differentiated itself from the competition with innovative services.

Hans Snook, then head of Hutchison's telecoms interests in the UK, was hired to run the company. Although Snook was virtually unknown in the City, he had impressed Hutchison with his work in Hong Kong's paging and cellular market. Mr Snook, then 45, also fitted the Orange image perfectly: in fact, he still often wears jeans and a leather jacket to work.

Orange immediately made its mark on the UK telecoms market by launching services such as per-second billing, caller identification, free insurance and a selection of five different tariffs. However, this was all necessary for Orange to lure customers away from its larger rivals at a time when its network covered only half *the UK's population.*

Orange has since built Britain's biggest network, in physical terms, with 5,000 cell sites (mobile phone masts). By 2001 the company aims to have increased this number to 10,000. As part of this enormous rollout programme, Orange decided to launch the Millennium Landmark Initiative (supported by the Prince of Wales) to find ways of making mobile phone masts less ugly. Opinion is still divided, however, on its success.

Orange's network now covers 98 per cent of Britain's population and 80 per cent of its geographic area — still less than Vodafone and Cellnet, but significantly more than One2 One. However, the capacity and quality of the network is very high: a recent Oftel report said that Orange's "call success rate" — ie, how many times customers make calls without being cut off, — was significantly better than any of it competitors in the UK.

Orange's strong brand and *high-tech network,* plus the backing of Hutchison and BAe, helped the company to float successfully on the stock market in April 1996 at 205p a share, valuing it at £2.45 billion. Today, Orange's shares trade in the region of 860p, valuing it at £10.4 billion. On flotation, Hutchison reduced its stake to 49 per cent, while BAe sold down to about 21 per cent, later reducing this again to about 5 per cent.

Orange shareholders have a hefty presence on the company's board, resulting in a large number of non-executive directors. Indeed, there are only three executive directors: Mr Snook, Graham Howe, finance director, and Colin Tucker, technical and operations director. Canning Fok, managing director of Hutchison, is non-executive chairman, with Hutchison employees filling three other non-executive positions.

Mr Snook believes that both Hutchison and BAe could eventually reduce their stakes in Orange further, which would inevitably have an impact on the company's board structure. He says: "BAe likes the business and said that they are long-term holders of stock. But this is not a core business for them. Hutchison is committed to telecoms and has always said they will have large holdings in Orange because of that. But would they sell down their holding to 40 per cent? I suppose that's very possible. It's also possible that they might take BAe's stake."

At present, the City seems to like Orange's management, although there has been some grumbling over the company's late adoption of pre-pay services, which are proving hugely popular, and the company's belated introduction of more competitive pricing. Orange's customer service is also suffering from serious problems, with customers waiting up to 25 minutes for a response from its help desk.

Overall, though, Orange's ability to attract high-spending customers and keep them has impressed the City. In fact, Orange's "churn" rates of customers leaving the network are far below those of its rivals. Mr Snook is still suspicious of the quality of pre-pay customers. He says: "The key to customer loyalty is having a relationship with your customer. We're the only people who even get the names and addresses of pre-pay customers. The good thing about pre-pay is what it has done for perception rather than reality."

The year ahead will be a testing time for Orange. It may have to cope with aggressive price competition from Vodafone AirTouch although Mr Snook believes that the cost of the merger will make the expanded company more conservative on pricing.

Orange will also see its brand launched in Germany and France, where it does not own its own networks, but instead operates "virtual networks" by bulk-buying air time from rivals. Orange will also launch branded services in Belgium and Switzerland in partnership with other companies. In addition, Orange has licensed its brand to operators in Israel and Hong Kong. However, analysts argue that this strategy is rather messy, and they are not convinced of the logic behind Orange providing services in countries where it does not own networks.

Integrity Works says that the company's published materials relating directly to ethical expression are short of best practice, bearing in mind today's climate in which many leading companies are at pains to explain their approach to these matters in detail. But it has plans to deal more fully with these issues.

According to Crisp Consulting, Hans Snook's relative inexperience indicates that he should receive remuneration equalling two thirds of his £1.15 million a year, while the non-executive directors are underpaid.

Serious questions remain over Orange's ability to compete internationally by itself, and its ability to bid for the next generation of mobile phone licences — expected to be auctioned by the Government next year — which could cost in the region of £500 million each. Still, the company has survived so far against all the odds, and it has the financial might of Hutchison behind it. Orange also owns one of the most sophisticated networks — and established brands — of any operator in Europe. The future may not be certain, but it does look bright.

CHRIS AYRES

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"If I was Hutchison Whampoa [Orange's 49 per cent shareholder] I think I would be extremely pleased with the way my investment in the UK cellular industry has gone. But everyone has a price and, with the feeding frenzy that's going on in the industry right now, that price is getting more attractive all the time."

Alan Lyons, ABN Amro.

"Orange is still going for the kind of customer that stays longer and spends more, while everyone else is seeing a fall in average customer spend. You should not underestimate the relationship Orange has with Hutchison Whampoa, which is ultimately a very powerful funding partner. I see Orange being an acquirer rather than a bid target."

Jim McCafferty, SG Securities

Ethical expression[1]	4/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	5/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	9/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	74/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

Underground to be extended with private funds

By Martin Waller

LONDON TRANSPORT is seeking private funds to extend the Underground into southeast London, an area that has previously been largely shunned by the Tube.

The organisation is working on four options to extend the East London line, which currently runs as far south as New Cross, by the year 2004.

All four of these options will be put to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, some time this summer, but the Government is broadly in favour if the necessary funding can be found.

The intention is that the selected scheme will be built either as a public-private partnership or as a private finance initiative.

Both options would require some investment from engineering or construction companies with experience in railways.

There are already plans to extend the line northwards to Highbury & Islington station, and planning consent for this has been sought.

The new line to the south would share existing overground railway lines and use existing rail stations, so minimising the cost.

But the track would have to be upgraded and some of it removed or resited, and there would be further building work at the stations.

The four options, all starting from the Surrey Quays tube station near the end of the existing East London line, are:

□ A line through Dulwich and Tooting to Wimbledon.

□ One through Dulwich and Crystal Palace to East Croydon.

□ Through Denmark Hill to Clapham Junction.

□ Through Sydenham and Anerley to East Croydon again.

The four London councils whose territory the line would cross, are all in agreement about the plans.

London Underground is convinced the project is feasible and could start as soon as clearance comes from the Government and the new Mayor of London once he or she is in place.

The scheme will also require detailed planning permission because of the inevitable disruption as lines are modified. London Underground has said it is keen to press ahead with the necessary planning applications.

South of the Thames lost out to a great extent when the Underground network was gradually *being built because it was* felt already to be well served with overground lines.



Stagecoach's commuter-rich South West Trains territory faces competition from GB Railways, which runs Anglia

Stagecoach's SWT faces challenge

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH is to have its control over the lucrative South West Trains franchise broken by GB Railways, a £16 *million minnow that runs the* Anglia Railways network.

Tim Clarke, Anglia's managing director, is planning to launch an attack on SWT's commuter-rich territory using new trains that will be leased from Stagecoach's Porterbrook subsidiary.

The result is likely to be a fight for commuters on the coveted Southampton to London line, seen as the backbone in the SWT network.

Anglia, GB Railways' only UK franchise, is planning its new service under the Moderation of Competition scheme — *drawn up during privatisation* — which will allow train operators to venture outside their own territory. So far, competition has been allowed in only the few areas where franchises overlap. However, from September, train companies will be able to poach passengers in *the middle of a rival's patch if* they can prove that there is a gap in the market.

Meridien to open for Sydney Olympics

By Dominic Walsh

GRANADA'S Méridien Hotels chain has won a contract to operate a five-star hotel in Sydney.

It is scheduled to open in February 2000, in time for the Olympic Games.

The A$120 million (£47.4 million) property is being developed by Singatronics, which has interests in three other hotels in Australia and is listed on the Singaporean stock exchange.

The 34-storey hotel will have 415 rooms and a health and fitness club.

News of the contract win comes hard on the heels of Méridien's selection to operate a 350-room hotel opening in San Diego in 2001 as part of a US$90 million retail and leisure development.

Both projects are significant moves for the chain in countries where it has recognised it has too limited a presence.

Elsewhere, the company *has recently signed seven new* hotel contracts in Egypt and one in Bethlehem.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 39

FRIGORIFICO

(c) In South Africa, a meat-packing plant, especially one concerned with the freezing of carcasses for export. In American-Spanish the name means literally a refrigerator. "We passed several cattle barges on our journey up the river, most of them taking cattle to the frigorificos near Rosario."

COTHAM

(b) Limestone. The toponym of a village near Bristol. It is the name of an argillaceous limestone having dendritic markings, also called landscape marble or stone. "One band of limestone, the fascinating Cotham marble, was often seen polished in fragments on Victorian mantlepieces."

ESRAJ

(a) An Indian stringed instrument with three or four strings, and extra sympathetic strings. The Bengali name. "The Esraj is a long and narrow bowed stringed instrument used mainly in Bengal to accompany singing."

APOPHATIC

(a) In theology, applied to knowledge of God obtained by way of negation. The Greek word means negative or denial. "Apophaticism is, above all, an attitude of mind which refuses to form concept about God."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. Qxh8+!Bxh8; 2. Rxf7+Kg8; 3. Nh6 checkmate.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6384 (-0.0049)

Euro
0.6888 (-0.0021)

Exchange Index
100.7 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3601.0 (-28.1)

FTSE 100
5855.3 (-40.7)

New York Dow Jones
9304.24 (-54.59)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge
13898.08 (-601.17)

Principal shows 23% profit rise

By Dominic Walsh

PRINCIPAL HOTELS will today unveil a 23 per cent jump in 1998 profits to £19.2 million — some £7.4 million higher than two years ago when it was forced to abandon a planned £150 million flotation.

Outstripping some of its publicly quoted rivals, Principal's 18 mainly four-star hotels lifted the crucial room yield by 15 per cent to £39.32, with occupancy slightly higher at 73.9 per cent and the average room rate up 15 per cent to £53.23.

Stripping out the effect of acquisitions and disposals, like-for-like sales were 9 per cent higher, with total turnover reaching £66.9 million. Capital expenditure increased from £8.5 million to £11 million. In the first quarter of the current year, operating profits are running 22 per cent higher.

Tony Troy, managing director, hinted that a rumoured £60 million deal to acquire the Russell Hotel in London from Granada was now unlikely, but he added: "We are still actively looking at potential acquisitions in London."

He said that the group was also keen to boost its overseas presence. It has three properties in Amsterdam, Dublin and Copenhagen, and is targeting European cities including Berlin, Paris and Brussels.

He admitted that a flotation was "a possibility", but said that investors still wanted to grow the company.

LineOne to challenge Net rivals

By Gavin Lumsden

LINEONE, the Internet service provider backed by BT, United News & Media and News International, the owner of *The Times*, is stepping up the competition in the cut-throat online marketplace with one of the largest-ever newspaper promotions in the UK.

Up to *six million* readers of the *Daily Express*, *The Sun* and *The Sunday Times* will be given free compact discs in a marketing offensive due to start next month. The free CDs will contain software enabling the newspapers' readers to surf the Internet if they have a suitable computer.

The company has also decided to abandon its policy of charging a monthly subscription fee and offer Internet access free to the public instead. In future it will concentrate on raising advertising revenue.

The move is a direct response to the success of free Internet service providers such as Dixons' Freeserve which *alone has* attracted 900,000 users since its launch last year.

Freeserve's progress has dwarfed LineOne, which in the past two years has attracted just 100,000 subscribers who pay between £5 and £15 a month for the online service.

However, by "leveraging its media assets" LineOne clearly hopes it can rise to the crest of the Internet wave. The new medium is becoming increasingly popular and is now used by an estimated eight million people in the UK.

Last year, when it was still charging a fee for its service, LineOne generated 28,000 new subscribers when it distributed 1.5 million CDs to readers of *The Sunday Times*. This was deemed a huge success as the CDs cost just a few pence to produce.

A central part of LineOne's campaign will be that it offers free Internet access and free content, the latter being the ability to read the many publications of the two media groups behind the company.

Although LineOne will be free it will charge 50p a minute for people who ring up its helpline. This practice has come under the scrutiny of Oftel, the telecoms regulator.

Sigrid Aufterbeck assesses the man with the job of steering the German carmaker

Academic in the hot seat at BMW



Joachim Milberg consulted his wife before agreeing to the appointment

WHEN Joachim Milberg was asked to step into the breach as chief executive of BMW he had little time to think. The rivalry between Bernd Pischetsrieder and Wolfgang Reitzle had just forced both to resign from the BMW management board. Yet Professor Milberg still took a moment to consult his wife.

This detail from Friday's turbulent seven-hour meeting displays one characteristic of Professor Milberg: he seeks consensus and does not make decisions against fierce opposition.

It was this that made him acceptable to the unions, who had rejected Herr Reitzle, the original favourite of the Quandt family that controls BMW.

But some are already worrying that this approach may be a severe weakness in tackling Rover, the solution to whose problems is likely to include heavy redundancies.

To make matters worse, BMW is itself poorlyprepared for the cyclical slowdown of the industry. Its survival as an independent company was openly questioned at the weekend by Robert Eaton, president of DaimlerChrysler.

On the plus side, Professor Milberg's background qualifies him to tackle Rover's efficiency and quality problems. As head of engineering and production at BMW, he created one of the world's most productive and efficient plants in Regensburg, and organised production in BMW's US plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Born in 1943, he began his career as a machine fitter before studying production technology. After heading Gildemeister, a middle-sized tool manufacturer, for nine years, Professor Milberg returned to academia in 1981 to become professor for machine tools and operations research at Munich Technical University — the alma mater of many BMW managers, including Bernd Pischetsrieder, Wolfgang Reitzle and Professor Werner Sämann, who is head of Rover.

Professor Milberg joined the BMW board in 1993 as a head of production, and last year took responsibility for engineering.

The British unions, although relieved at Professor Milberg's appointment, know that the sword of Damocles has not been lifted. His priority is to end Rover's heavy losses. Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU, is seeking an urgent meeting with the new man.

Professor Milberg will need more than engineering skills and a courteous relationship with the unions if he is to prove himself as the strategist needed to head a leading carmaker.

In appointing him, the Quandt family has recognised its weakness in the face of opposition from the German unions. The family's spokesman reiterated the family's commitment to BMW over the weekend. But BMW now looks much more vulnerable to takeover.

Suitors set to bid for RAC arm

Lex Service, the motor group, and Cinven, the venture capital firm, are said to be drawing up bids of up to £400 million for the Royal Automobile Club's motoring services arm.

The news comes after Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, last week blocked the RAC's £450 million deal to sell the business to Cendant, the US services group. After the DTI decision, the RAC said it would either go public or find another buyer willing to table a "knock-out" offer.

Offer for FKI failed

Jeff Whalley, retiring chairman of FKI, the engineering to materials handling group, mounted an unsuccessful attempt to take the firm private last year, it has emerged. Mr Whalley, who surprised the City two weeks ago by announcing he would step down in July, made a £1.1 billion bid for the group in October. FKI's non-executive directors rejected the proposal.

Threat to Lucas jobs

TRW, the US car components group, has admitted "some redundancies" are inevitable if its £4 billion offer for Lucas-Varity succeeds. TRW issued its offer document at the weekend. Federal-Mogul of the US is considering a counter bid for the group.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
3¾	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	14.50	AFA Systems	115	+16	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	...	9.2	7.1
157½	109½	7.15	ATA Group	110	−5½	2.3	8.7
271	175	37.00	Access Plus	220	+25	2.9	18.4
67½	44½	5.94	AdVal Group	45	...	...	7.7
7¼	2	2.61	African Gold	2½	...	...	...
96½	36½	34.20	Albemarle & Bd	77	−½	1.6	21.0
43½	24	9.76	Allzyme	27½	+1	...	...
102½	42½	10.70	Ambient Media	45	−½	...	...
325	88½	7.91	Ambishus Pub Co	125½	+5½	...	16.2
108½	96½	35.00	Anglo Sibrn Oil	96½	...	...	...
119	72½	3.21	Anglo-Welsh	103½	...	3.6	8.5
117½	59½	46.60	Antonov	60	−5	...	...
110½	62½	15.00	Aortech	74	+1½	...	...
100	80	4.42	Aram Resources	85	...	6.2	28.6
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	...	...	...
5¾	3¼	2.95	Artisan (UK)	4¼	+¼	...	...
485	236¾	95.30	Ask Central	420	+20	0.3	37.1
72½	54½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	...	2.5	47.4
24¾	4½	9.70	Atlantic Caspian	5½	+¼	...	...
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	...
200½	124	62.40	BATM Adv Comms	200½	+9	1.5	...
238½	66½	12.30	BCO Technologies	68½	...	...	...
317½	135	22.60	BGR	145	...	2.5	16.5
3¾	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼	...	...	...
115½	44½	22.20	Barbican Health	115	...	...	...
2	1½	3.30	Beechcroft	1¾	+¼	3.6	10.5
3¾	1	5.81	Beaufort	3	...	2.8	59.6
44	26½	5.51	Bickerton	36	...	1.7	34.1
117½	50	0.82	Billam	51½	...	12.9	...
53½	34½	3.12	Bilston Btrsea	35	...	2.7	...
1½	0¾	7.08	Birchin Ind	1¼	+¼	...	15.7
44½	30½	20.00	Birmingham City	40	+1	...	...
67½	5	0.50	Blakes Cloth	5	−1	25.0	9.4
156½	68	12.60	Bond Intl Soft	92½	...	...	22.5
325	235	2.21	[illegible]	315	...	3.0	13.5
37½	7½	2.75	Brancote Hldgs	13½	...	...	...
105	60	2.62	Br Bloodstock	62½	...	5.0	7.6
25½	9½	1.16	Buckland Invs	9½	...	...	...
12	6	0.05	Buckland Inv Wts	6	...	...	...
262	106	16.70	CA Coutts Hldgs	140	+15	3.3	13.5
170	80	7.40	C & B Publishing	100	...	...	8.2
165½	111½	1.50	CCI Hldgs	125	...	2.5	...
11½	8	13.20	CCM Distribution	8	−½	...	13.8
79½	49½	3.19	CW Residential	72½	...	3.1	37.0
235	140	10.20	Cala Ions	204	−6	2.1	15.4
60	40	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	...	...	5.6
19	5¾	1.66	Cambridge Min Res	5¾	−¼	...	...
2½	2	3.00	Cambury Inv	2	...	...	31.9
0¾	0¾	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾	...	...	...
87½	34	52.40	Card Clear	37½	−½	0.9	16.5
54½	35½	3.89	Carisbrooke Ship	38½	...	3.2	12.4
23	9¼	215.00	Carlisle	19½	−1½	...	51.3
12¾	4	4.79	Carlisle Wts	12	+¼	...	...
55	32	1.76	Cassidy Bros	32	+¾	11.1	...
13	5¾	3.53	Celebrated Group	5¾	−¼	...	...
106½	71½	21.60	Cf Comms(TV)	98½	...	3.4	17.4
86½	41	14.50	Charlton Athl	41	−3	...	...
14¼	8¼	11.50	Charterhouse Cms	11½	...	3.7	11.1
115	66½	119.10	Chelsea Village	75	−1	...	59.7
29	13¾	104.90	Chorion	20½	−1	...	...
122½	96½	33.30	Citadel	100½	+2	2.2	62.7
82	25½	5.64	City Gourmets	27	...	...	...
113	85	0.81	Clan Homes	90	...	...	...
28½	8½	12.90	Coffee Rep	13½	+½	...	...
317½	117½	26.90	Coraino	202½	...	2.3	14.3
369	142½	16.10	Computerland UK	175	−7½	1.4	21.3
19½	12½	10.00	Concurrent Tech	14¼	...	1.8	21.4
46½	28	7.20	Conister Tst	32	...	7.8	8.2
149½	127½	14.50	Connaught	149½	...	4.3	11.9
3¾	1½	2.73	Corporate Exec	1¾	...	...	...
15½	1¾	0.96	Creos Intl	2¼	...	...	...
153½	113½	5.79	Cresco Ind	113½	...	...	30.9
230	77½	1.24	Crown Eye	77½	...	20.2	...
42½	19½	8.63	Dalkeith Ims	32½	...	...	...
287½	135	6.48	Dawn Til Dusk	135	...	3.9	10.1
400	170	15.10	Deep Sea Leisure	240	...	...	19.0
6¼	2¾	6.66	Dentmaster	4½	...	3.2	11.0
495	16½	8.04	Desire Petroleum	17	−½	...	46.6
79½	52	7.72	Digital Anmtn	52½	...	...	...
32½	17½	11.00	Dimension Res	17½	...	...	...
18½	3½		Dimension Wts	14	...	...	...
27½	16½	2.74	Dunkie Heel	18½	...	10.8	6.9
135½	79½	7.39	Delyn Group	85	...	3.7	14.2
45	16½	5.45	Dmatek	29	...	...	...
406	195	16.20	Dobbies Garden	245	+10	2.4	14.9
30	19½	2.48	Downtex	20½	+1	...	10.6
263½	145	22.90	Dragons Health	180½	+12	1.9	19.8
3¾	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
812½	217½	24.00	Durlacher	800	...	...	24.3
39½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	...	...
280	73½	51.90	Easynet	253	+4½	...	...
330	120	29.10	Elec Retail Sys	137½	...	...	...
103	72	20.80	Enterprises	76½	−1	6.9	...
27½	11½	5.83	Epic Group	25	...	...	27.0
45	45	14.10	Epicure Hotels	45	...	...	...
95	27½	2.06	Eurasia Mining	27½	...	...	...
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	...	4.2	8.4
390	200	10.00	Fartale	385	+1	1.3	...
82½	47½	12.50	Fayrewood	59½	−½	2.6	10.4
103½	30½	4.33	Fieldens	86½	...	...	...
117½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...	...	...
413½	206½	139.10	Fitness First	398½	+40	...	49.5
160	95	4.16	Flomerics	160	...	2.3	26.5
100	30½	1.04	Floral St	32½	...	...	...
102½	57½	8.96	Formscan	80	...	4.7	8.9
188½	99½	12.10	Fountain Forestry	127½	+2	12.0	17.9
205½	158½	11.10	Furlong Homes	167½	...	4.8	5.1
99½	24½	2.77	Future Int Telep	25	...	...	...
301½	133½	12.60	GB Railways	143½	+2	5.7	8.0
60	37½	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.5	14.3
12¾	4	16.50	GTL Res	10¼	+1¼	...	...
179½	85½	90.00	Gartland W&B	103½	−1½	6.3	...
26¾	12	33.30	Gold Mns Sard	24¼	+1¼	...	...
70	15	8.31	Golf Club	17½	...	...	...
171½	111½	19.70	Gooch & Housego	116½	+1¼	1.8	16.3
23	9	3.07	Griffin Mining	14½	...	...	...
2¾	2	2.00	Grosmont Hldgs	2	...	...	13.9
1¼	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
15	7¾	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8	−½	...	25.5
175	160	41.90	Gaiten	172½	+2½	3.9	12.9
6¼	3	2.11	Hansom	5½	...	...	26.7
255	142	25.60	Hardy Undwtg	152½	−2½	5.4	6.5
2¾	0¾	13.80	Hartford	1¾	...	...	...
40	28	7.35	Hacas Group	28½	...	...	18.4
89½	44½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½	...	1.9	...
405	325	8.09	Heavitree	385	...	2.6	18.9
295	275	12.40	Heavitree A	295	...	3.4	14.4
105	55½	5.61	Helicon Pubg	95	...	...	...
145	61½	11.80	Highams Sys	62½	−12½	2.0	10.5
135½	87½	7.70	Highland Timber	87½	...	...	...
80½	56½	17.70	Honeycombe Leisure	78½	−1	...	13.1
100	60	1.60	Hurlingham	100	...	1.2	...
97½	58	3.89	Hydro-Dynamic	58	...	8.4	12.4
83½	19½	6.20	IES	26½	−1	...	...
390	145½	12.10	I S Solutions	252½	+17½	1.0	29.0
737½	137¼	183.90	Indpt Energy	707½	−10	...	...
86½	51½	9.40	Indpt Radio	52½	...	...	...
332½	32	17.10	Infobank Intl	68½	+6	...	...
98½	37½	9.19	Inner Workings	37½	...	...	...
125	32½	0.84	Integrd As Mgt	32½	...	...	...
103½	24	25.50	Intelligent Env	82½	−12½	...	...
487½	330	25.60	Inter-Alliance	465	...	...	...
140	108	22.60	Interior Services	108	...	3.6	11.4
119½	97½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½	...	2.2	9.7
189½	37½	72.50	Internet Tech	164	−4	...	...
647½	372½	80.40	Intl Greetings	582½	−20	1.9	16.4
172½	29½	15.40	IOG Intl	49½	−11	...	...
425	138¼	21.00	ITG Group	420	+10	...	47.4
262½	170	24.00	JSB Software Tech	252½	+17½	...	...
97½	43½	8.86	James R Knowles	44½	−20½	4.5	15.2
49½	32½	3.10	Jardinete Ins	35¼	...	...	9.5
416	265	19.60	Jennings Bros	265	...	4.0	11.8
4	1¼	2.81	J Lewis Hlord	2	...	6.8	14.7
62½	40½	8.76	Jordec	41½	...	...	9.7

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
46½	17½	3.94	Jumbo Intl	20	...	...	...
3	1	6.79	Jost Group	1½	...	...	...
42½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	...	...	...
55½	16½	1.85	Keystone Soft	16½	−1	...	...
25½	5½		Keystone Wts	5½	...		
193½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	−1	2.1	13.9
55	45		LTG Technologies	45	−5	...	8.8
260	95	6.20	Lady in Leisure	105	−10	2.4	9.1
260	122½	9.18	Landround	204	−1	3.1	16.9
427½	370	25.90	Lawrence	370	...	3.0	12.3
5750	3750	80.80	Lawrie Group	4250		2.4	4.3
90¼	17½	1.87	Lepco	17½	...	...	...
415	296½	60.10	Liston Park	305		9.5	3.6
495	305	6.10	Loades	305		0.5	...
31½	9½	5.60	Loftus Road	14	−1½	...	
9¾	6¼	2.82	Lond & Edn Pub	8½	+¼	...	
125	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.8	5.1
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	...	
191½	127½	4.67	Longbridge Intl	141½	...	4.2	11.6
144½	36½	1.31	Longmead	36½	−2	7.7	4.9
2	0½	1.75	Loteryking	1	...	...	12.2
1	0¼	0.09	Loteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
36½	20½	4.33	MMS Petroleum	35½	+½	...	...
1½	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	...	...
23¾	5½	6.87	Magnum Power	7¼	...	...	...
517½	267½	43.10	Majestic Wine	312½	+40	2.0	18.8
12¼	4	7.55	Mano River UK	10¾	+¾	...	...
9½	4¼	4.54	Manx & O'seas	5¾	...	...	...
55½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	3.5	10.2
115	73	1.70	Matrix Hlthcare	74	...	5.1	...
19¾	10¾	5.30	Mears Group	11¼	...	3.6	8.5
38½	17	32.60	Medisys	19½	+1	...	...
65½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	...	1.5	22.8
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
65½	33	2.88	Methven's	33½	...	...	...
114½	109½	13.90	Metnor Group	109½	...	...	18.7
115	80	3.92	Metrodome	80	−2½	...	...
191½	45½	38.90	Minorplanet	80	+1½	...	...
85½	35	8.51	Mondas	67½	+17	...	...
380	195	28.10	Moorepay	240	−10	3.1	...
124	51	3.91	Moneticashel	51½	−6	...	0.4
70½	34½	9.45	Mulberry Group	45	−2½	4.2	...
3¾	2	2.07	MultiMedia	3	...	...	...
13¼	8¾	7.50	Murray Financial Corpn	7½	...	...	...
15¾	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	3.1	...
67½	40½	25.90	NMT	66	+11	...	
135	52½	9.90	NRP	132	+36½	...	32.1
375	160	25.90	Nab Retail Sys	235	+30½	0.3	27.4
225	145	11.80	NWF Grp	150	...	6.6	7.4
195	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	...	6.9	5.6
5½	4½	4.68	Nat Bldg Mts	4¾	−½	...	...
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prf	105	...	...	...
90	40½	10.70	Netcall	58	−7	...	
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
25	2	0.50	Nthn Petlm	2¼	...	...	...
80½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	−2	...	24.7
55½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts	17½	...	...	...
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	...	...	...
62½	50½	10.30	Old Monk Company	58½	−2	...	15.4
285	12½	3.71	On Line	112½	−16½	...	...
227½	80	7.18	Optoplast	82½	...	2.3	9.5
24½	6	22.50	Oxford Biomedica	19	+4	...	...
1¼	0½	9.81	Pacific Media	0½	...	...	...
39½	7	3.43	Pan Andean Res	7¼	−1½	...	...
32½	16½	2.48	Parallel Pcts	19½	...	...	...
245	220	5.28	Park Ests(Liv)	220	...	5.8	14.9
18½	8½	5.98	Pathfinder Props	8½	−1	...	4.9
154½	77	9.98	Peel Hotels	153½	+3½	...	...
21	5½	4.03	Pembertons	8¼	...		
183½	91½	8.68	Pennant Intl	131½	...	...	17.3
55½	34½	10.80	Personal No Co	40½	−5	...	...
155	58½	19.80	Petra Diamonds	58½	...	...	...
122	42	0.73	Petra Dmnds Wt	43½	...	...	...
30½	10½	7.76	Philippine Gd	11½	...	...	28.3
62½	10	3.20	Pilat Tech	13½	...	11.1	4.5
210½	162½	28.60	Policy Master Grp	202½	+5	...	47.0
297½	117½	31.90	PolyDoc	156½	−1	...	...
151½	53½	11.60	Polymasc Pharms	55	−1	...	...
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	...
1	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾		...	
16	10½	11.60	Premier Asset Mgt	13¼	...	...	10.1
182½	160½	5.94	Premier Direct Grp	160½	...	...	5.2
7	2¼	128.50	Prestbury Group	3¾	+¼	...	54.6
445	310	7.14	Preston Nth E	340	...		
72½	62½	4.43	Private & Comm	71½	...	1.0	12.9
260	255	9.01	Property & Cap	257½	...	...	...
48¼	6¼	10.10	Proteome Scies	13	−1½	...	...
55	45	1.85	Pubs n Bars	50	...	...	...
107½	47½	8.35	Pycraft & Arnold	53½	+4½	4.1	9.3
118½	69½	12.30	Q Group	70½	−2	0.9	11.2
847½	215	74.20	Ramco Egy	245	−5	...	56.3
10¼	6¼	11.90	Range Cooker	7½	...	1.7	6.2
137½	77½	16.80	Raphael ZH	112½	...	3.3	9.1
57½	15½	2.84	Recycling Servs	17½	...	...	16.0
19½	1½	0.89	Reflec	3	−¾	...	...
7	1½	1.64	Revelation Plc	1½	−¾	25.0	...
20½	5	3.62	Riceman Insce	5½	...	...	...
111½	66½	3.52	Romtec	66½	...	3.0	...
357½	130	18.00	SBS	205	+2½	2.0	16.6
152½	38	6.41	SCI Ent	50½	+9	...	
110	47½	11.80	Saleslore	52½	...		...
132½	112½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	−2	4.2	13.7
243½	136½	36.00	Science Sys	211½	+12	0.7	29.1
23	7½	1.22	Scotswood Inds	11½	...	...	...
3	1	3.28	Screen	1¼	...	...	...
42½	1½	0.49	Selector	2½	...	...	...
190½	130½	10.80	Shellbane	130½	−3	4.4	7.1
87½	52½	2.78	Shelton (M)	52½	...	10.0	7.0
47½	3½	30.20	Sibir Energy	4½	...	...	
4¼	2½	8.71	Sira Bus Serv	3¾	...	2.4	13.4
65½	10½	4.25	Sodra Petroleum	10½	...	...	...
72½	35½	3.12	Solid State Sp	49½	...	1.3	31.2
265	190½	11.00	Solitaire	240	...	3.1	21.9
44½	14½	4.09	Soundtracs	40½	...	1.4	...
3½	1	1.98	South Beach Concepts	1		...	...
94½	45½	10.00	Southern Vectis	50½	−2	5.7	7.3
99½	54½	22.30	Sports & Out Media	72½	+9	...	27.6
147½	127½	8.11	Springboard Venture Managers	147½		...	...
950	180	23.50	Stathware	185	−76½	1.4	21.5
170	60	31.00	Stanford Rook	156	−10½	...	...
196½	3½	2.28	Stentor	19½	+2	...	...
71½	2		Stentor Warrants	4	...	...	...
103½	84½	4.70	SupaRule	85½	...	...	
155	125	12.50	Sutton Harbour	125	...	3.5	18.8
43	4	3.88	Syst Integ Rsch	27½	−15	...	...
85½	47½	23.10	Systems Intl	67½	−1	...	21.5
5¾	3½	5.49	Talisman House	3½	...	...	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	...	...
67½	28½	5.26	Theo Fennell	32½	−5	...	35.0
5¾	4½	9.50	Thomas Potts	4¾	...	0.4	11.2
41½	15	1.96	Tom Hoskins	19	+½	...	12.4
117½	52½	8.45	Total Office	52½	−2	12.4	7.3
145	93½	9.65	Touchstone Grp	98½	−5	0.4	14.2
70	13½	4.77	Tradepoint Fcl	16½	...	...	...
102½	47½	7.66	Tricorder Tech	50½	+1	...	...
160	140	6.96	Trinity Care	145	...	4.7	13.1
200	141¼	5.86	UA Group	167½	...	3.5	...
39½	38	3.59	Univent	39½	...	...	18.9
235	122	13.50	VDC	123½	...	5.6	10.6
42½	7	22.90	Victory Corp	7¼	−¼	...	...
341½	185	37.20	Virtual Internet	185	−40	...	...
150	43½	1.52	Voss Net	43½	−11	...	...
85½	26½	10.10	WML	35¼	−¼	...	34.6
5	2¼	3.21	Weeks Group	2¼	...	6.1	9.8
87	45	2.48	West 175 Enter	45	...	...	...
£145	9500	8.39	West Bromwich	£115	...	...	13.3
13½	7¼	3.70	Western Selectn	8½	...	3.7	28.2
4½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	...	...	...
300	17½	1.96	Westmoor Engy	17½	−1	...	...
85	75	6.38	Willington	75	...	8.0	3.1
2¾	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
84½	55½	7.93	Winchester	61½	−2½	...	32.2
205	55	17.80	World Telecom	71	...	...	...
150	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.9	16.3
15	5½	14.10	Xavier Comp	14¼	...	...	13.6
88½	53½	4.45	Yeoman	58½	...	...	...
7	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	...	...	...

Axon chiefs get £660,000 bonus

By Paul Durman

DIRECTORS of Axon Group, an information technology consultancy, paid themselves £660,000 in bonuses last year in the run-up to a planned £100 million flotation.

Mark Hunter, Axon's 36-year-old founder, and his colleagues will be among existing shareholders who hope to sell £15 million of shares in a placing next month. The firm, specialists in adapting SAP's business software, intends to raise another £15 million in new money.

The bonus payments depressed Axon's pre-tax profits in 1998 from the underlying level of £2.5 million. This was achieved on sales that doubled to £20 million.

Mr Hunter started Axon, based in Egham, Surrey, only four years ago. He used to work for SAP, whose software is used to integrate finance, sales and manufacturing information within large organisations. He currently has a stake of more than 30 per cent.

Axon is now focusing on helping its clients to exploit the Internet and the opportunities for e-commerce.

The company has appointed Barbara Thomas, deputy chairman of Friends Provident, as chairman.

WestLB Panmure will act as sponsor and broker to the placing, scheduled for next month. A pathfinder prospectus will be available shortly.

TT accuses Hall of over-optimism

By Matthew Barbour

TT GROUP, the engineering firm bidding £52 million for Hall Engineering, has accused its target of over-optimism in its profit forecast.

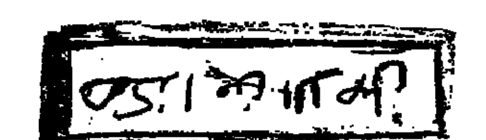
Hall Engineering rejected last month's 97p per share offer as "unsolicited and unwelcome". Hall shares have since risen to 120p, giving it a market value of £64 million, prompting speculation of further bids.

John Newman, TT's executive chairman, said: "If it wasn't for our bid, the shares would still be at the 70p level. The market is always going to pre-empt counter-bids and we are prepared for that eventuality."

Since February last year, analysts have halved their full-year profit forecasts for Hall from about £20 million to £10 million. However, in its interim trading statement for the six months to June 30, Hall stated: "1998 is going to be a difficult year, although there are signs of a modest improvement in the second half."

Since the bid was made, PDFM has lifted its stake in TT from 5 per cent to 11 per cent via a 6 per cent holding bought from Hill Samuel Asset Management.

Hall's managing director, John Sword, said a sharp rise in the shares merely reflected "value" investors picking up shares. Hall is understood to be considering a management buyout as a means of fighting off the rival bid.



Hard times await the money men

You had better be prepared for low interest rates. In my view, base rates are on course to hit 4 per cent by the end of the year, and, over time, they may trend even lower. After almost three decades of very high rates, this would imply a massive change with consequences for all parts of the economy, but particularly for the financial sector.

High interest rates, and the high inflation that underpins them, have made it easier for providers of financial services to earn big profits. If mortgage holders are paying 12 per cent and savers are getting only 10 per cent, not many savers are going to complain. But if mortgage holders are paying 7 per cent and savers getting 5 per cent, even though the margin is the same, savers will be unhappy. In fact, most depositors are already earning far less than 5 per cent. If this is what it is like when base rates are 5.5 per cent, imagine what will happen when they reach 4 per cent. Are savers to be paid next to nothing for their money?

That is exactly what happens in Japan. One way out here could be for intermediaries to try to pass on an obstinately high cost of deposits to mortgage borrowers, with the result that although savers' deposit rates held up well against falling base rates, the margin between base rates and mortgage rates increased. This conclusion would be supported by the view that mortgage borrowing is currently cheap. Granted the traditional British view of housing as an investment, if base rates fell to the levels I suggest, then this could imply a surge in mortgage demand. In that case, it might be easy for mortgage providers to maintain margins by keeping lending rates relatively high.

But such thinking is a legacy from the time when rapid inflation meant that the real value of mortgage debt would be easily eroded. The salaries from which mortgages would be paid would rise sharply year after year without fail, and the value of property would shoot up. Moreover, until recently, the tax privileges for mortgage borrowers were enormous.

In today's conditions, however, with pay rising by 4 per cent if you are lucky, and even this rate looking to turn down, and with house price inflation easing back, a 7 per cent mortgage is expensive. Furthermore, the penny is beginning to drop with borrowers just when the market is becoming more competitive anyway.



Similar logic applies to the management of investments, and this includes Peps and their replacements, as well as conventional managed pension funds. Imagine you have been lucky enough to enjoy a 15 per cent rise in the value of your investments managed by professional fund managers. For their services, they charge you, let us say, 1 per cent. You surely will not like this cost (if you notice it), but at least you are left with a handsome net profit.

Now suppose that the value of your investments rises by only 3 per cent and your friendly fund managers still want to charge you 1 per cent. How will you feel then? And, although we all know that equities always go up, just imagine that they actually went down for a change — and the fund managers *still* wanted to charge you 1 per cent.

It may seem odd that these pressures should emerge only now. After all, inflation has been on a falling trend since 1980. However, not every part of the economy adjusts smoothly and instantaneously. Interest rates have been the prime weapon used to control inflation. That has meant that not only have they had to be high enough to compensate for inflation, but they have had to be even higher, in order to bring down inflation.

Even with the advent of low inflation in the past few years, the monetary authorities have been watchful for resurgence, and so they have continued to keep rates high. Only now that they have woken up to the danger that inflation may easily fall below 1.5 per cent, and that it may give way to deflation, do we see rates coming down with a bump.

In investment management, the full impact of low inflation has been disguised by the huge bull market in equities, which has generated large real returns from which the managers' margins could be paid. Forgive me for being a party-pooper yet again, but this cannot continue. Even if we manage to escape a sharp fall in share prices, which I doubt, it is hard to see how real price performance can begin to match the past ten years. And with next to no inflation, this means that the return in money terms will be very small indeed. It will then be difficult to disguise the current level of charges, and people will ask what they are getting for their money.

Dramatic changes in the economy take time to have their full effect. In Britain, an early casualty of the disinflationary process has been manufacturing industry, put into the front line of the battle against inflation by high interest rates and strong sterling.

Meanwhile, providers of financial services thrived, helped by the high interest rates manufacturers loathed. Now their high margins are threatened not only by more intense competition, but also by the stripping away of layers of money illusion. The result will be a prolonged squeeze across much of the financial services sector, involving intense pressure to cut costs, shed jobs and pay people less generously. I can just imagine your crocodile tears.

Lifeblood of enterprise has a dangerously weak pulse

Investor attitudes may force 800 small companies from the market, writes **Christine Buckley**

Chris Swan, chairman of Finelist, fears that companies will lose a key method to motivate staff if they are forced to delist

At the heart of the Government's high hopes for improving Britain's competitiveness is the small business.

The entrepreneurial spirit of smaller companies — which make up 97 per cent of the country's employers — is at the core of the Competitiveness White Paper.

Blue-chip companies can spring from the smaller business acorns, delivering enormous growth along the way. With the small company lies *the opportunity for growth, for* innovation and commercial flexibility.

But this paradigm of enterprise has a dangerously weak pulse. A dearth of investment interest in smaller quoted companies threatens to drive 800 of them from the equity market listings, according to a report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry. On their coat-tails ride thousands of jobs.

Smaller quoted companies — those that lie outside the FTSE 350 — employ two million people and produce £9 billion in profits per year. Fed up with investor apathy and (consequently) poor share price performance, many of these are expected to succumb to takeovers or find ways to take themselves private.

Such a massive delisting could wreak long-term damage on the economy. Companies unable to use their shares to finance their expansion will grow more slowly. And the lack of appetite for new flotations will discourage investors and entrepreneurs from building up businesses in the first place.

The lack of interest in smaller companies stems from a mixture of old and new obstacles to investment in enterprises that are more about potential, rather than the more reliable returns expected from large businesses.

The old problem is the reluctance of investment funds to pump money into risky ventures and their fear of illiquidity. Shares in small quoted companies are often not easily traded, making it difficult for disgruntled investors to bale out.

The new problem is more worrying. It springs from the impact of the consolidation of investment funds and the increasingly pan-European and global equity markets. More money is being channelled into fewer and bigger investments and smaller companies are losing out. Investors are increasingly favouring indexation, tracking the fortunes of the higher-value companies in the FTSE 100 or 350.

Fewer stockbrokers are following smaller companies so less information is disseminated about them. Consequently, interest is harder to stimulate. It is a vicious circle.

The Government is keen to encourage more venture capitalists to back small companies and entrepreneurial start-ups as it tries to boost competitiveness. But without the lifeblood of further and sustained cash from equity markets, its efforts will be in vain.

Paul Myners, author of the report into smaller companies and the City, cautions that the problem is a stark one. "The equity gap for small companies is a very serious problem for them but it also has major implications for the culture of enterprise and for rewarding innovation."

Chris Swan, chairman of Finelist — the auto parts distributor that owns the Charlie Brown chain — says that companies will also lose a key method to motivate staff and encourage stakeholding if they are forced to delist.

Mr Swan fronts a stock market success story. When Finelist floated in 1994, it had a turnover of £24 million and profits of £2½ million. Last year its sales had soared to £500 million and its profits were £32 million. He says: "Listing is important not only for raising equity but for the signal it sends about the potential for growth of a business."

But other potential Finelists may not get the opportunity to step on the ladder that could lift them into the larger league. In 1997, 126 companies fell from the Stock Exchange's listings through merger or delisting. Last year the figure was 200.

Unless there is a sea-change in investment attitudes the 800 casualties warned of in the DTI-commissioned report will soon join them.



Myners: serious equity gap

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, says disillusionment among small businesses about investment prospects is rife. "The equity gap faced by smaller companies is very serious. Major institutional investors are focusing on large companies and there is also a reluctance by banks to lend to smaller quoted companies."

One large bank is said to have 100 companies on its books considering delisting immediately, having abandoned the hope of raising cash through the stock markets.

Given the prevailing economic factors that are sweeping investment away from smaller quoted companies, there is no easy way for them to fight back. But Mr Myners believes that better communication would help. Many institutional investors find that the information and dialogue provided by small companies is inadequate. Directors of newly floated companies come to the City with little knowledge of its workings and unused to the rigours of communicating with a public market. The dissatisfaction is mutual. Many small companies complain of poor understanding among investors.

The DTI report found that only 21 per cent of fund managers find that smaller companies are good communicators. Some 70 per cent of investors questioned thought that smaller companies have a poor grasp of what determines shareholder value.

At the same time, less than 30 per cent of small companies believe fund managers enter into constructive dialogue. Less than 40 per cent of small businesses believe investors understand their companies and the sectors in which they operate.

The report recommends that smaller companies produce a statement of prospects and publish quarterly trading reports. They should benchmark investor relations services and set out what are the main drivers of their growth. It tells the City that it should set out what it wants to see from small companies, the criteria for investing in them, the yardsticks it will use to judge performance and the preferred regularity, style and content of its meetings.

Gervais Williams, head of UK smaller companies at Gartmore, the investment fund, believes there is plenty of opportunity for successful investment in the smaller end of the equity market. "We have more smaller-quoted companies in the UK than in other European countries and they are often good investment vehicles. But as Europe grows into one large equity market they have got to work harder than larger companies to attract funds."

Gartmore channels just 6 per cent of its total funds into smaller companies. But that percentage is higher than many of its peers with the average proportion running at about 4½ per cent.

Better communication may improve the parlous state of investment. Whether that will prove sufficient is uncertain. If not, and no other initiatives emerge to stimulate investment, then the drive for increased competitiveness in the UK economy will be seriously undermined.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Purpose-built nightmares

Raising the Roof
BBC2, 8.00pm

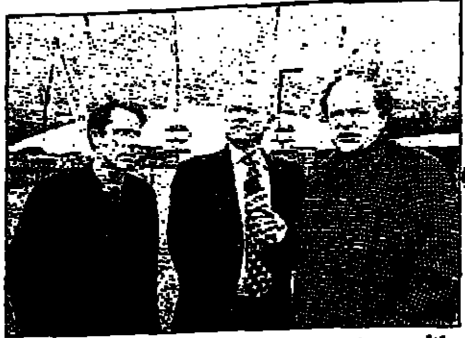
The reporter Paul Kenyon, who has consistently opened cans of worms in this invaluable series, takes his hidden cameras into brand new properties where, you might think, nothing could be wrong if the promised experts have been on site during the building. But listen to Bill and Jenny, who have just moved into a new row built by one of the country's top firms: "You don't expect loos, pipes and radiators to go wrong," says Jenny — but, demonstrably, they have. Kenyon is assured by the NHBC (National House Building Council, the industry's regulatory body) that such faults in a new property are extremely rare. But are they? Privately, an independent inspector and a highly *experienced builder go undercover on 21 different* sites where, it seems, NHBC observers have been thin on the ground and brickies in a hurry have been putting up faulty lintels (on 29% of the properties) and leaving dangerous wall cavities (71%).

Cutting Edge: Mummy's Boy
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Blackpool, London, Brighton: three venues, three *mothers without partners but with live-in sons* different enough to spark an intriguing study in relationships. Derek, 16, is a conman in the making. "He's two kinds of people," says his patient mother, Deborah. "One is a little darling, the other an absolute b******." The viewer will not be in two minds about him. In London the love-hate pair Ranna and Simeon makes for uncomfortable viewing. Ranna is markedly possessive and unresponsive Simmy, 20, palpably longs to spread his wings. Notes coy-with-the-camera Ranna: "He's waiting for me to meet Mr Right and move out of the flat." Marion's son Daniel, 20, is gay and has no wish to leave. She revels in his Brighton club scene — he brings his friends (who look on Marion as a surrogate Mum) home for tea . . .

Animal Police
BBC1, 9.30pm

Twice a year more than 2,000 young men and women apply for the job of RSPCA inspector. Of these, around 22 are accepted for training at the Horsham HQ. Naturally, because it concerns animals, especially animals in trouble, this new series will be rich in the "aah factor" — but it's the would-be inspectors who dominate the first programme. We meet half a dozen hopefuls and follow them through their first week of training before the exam where their potential is assessed. If accepted, Clare, Garry, Sam and the rest will *join 320 inspectors* already working in the field. In one week alone they face legal studies, abseiling trials, swimming, boating, fire drill and a trip to a slaughterhouse.



Hardy, Garden and Anderson return with *If I Ruled the World* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

If I Ruled the World
BBC2, 10pm

Back they all come, this time for an extended series. No tape available as the show is recorded at *the last minute* but if you recall the formula you can expect the politically incorrect mixture as before — with Jeremy Hardy and Graeme Garden leading their opposing Red and Blue parties into the political arena where they will avoid all sensible questions and spin, lie and cheat disgracefully. Says the presenter Clive Anderson: "You must remember that Graeme, Jeremy and their guests only pretend to be politicians. Any resemblance to the real thing is entirely accidental." Returning are old favourites like the I Couldn't Disagree More and the Yes/No rounds. New rounds include "I've Done Something Very Foolish . . ." **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Mixing It — John Cale
Radio 3, 10.45pm

Velvet Underground was a band that may not have lasted very long in performance terms but it had a vast influence on the development of rock music. Cale and the other members of the group never failed to raise an eyebrow; or a controversy. This programme features Cale talking about and playing music that has influenced him, but his own history is what really fascinates. He was born in the Brecon hills, spoke only Welsh as a boy, played viola with the Welsh Youth Orchestra and made the great leap — the move to New York — after corresponding with John Cage and Aaron Copland. Once in America Cale threw himself into *the avant garde, including two hour, one-note* meditative droning sessions. All in a days work.

Two Flies on the Wall
Radio 4, 8.00pm

Television in the late 1990s has been characterised by the docusoap, in which stars are made of everyone from hotel receptionists to traffic wardens. It has been an odd and distinctly uneven genre, with *some successes* (*Hotel*) and some flops (*War and Piste*). The latter is among those featured in this programme, which has David Stafford asking if the docusoap boom is about to go bust. Producer David Prest trailed the docusoap crews for several months, so this is essentially a docusoap about docusoaps. As well as *War and Piste*, there are visits to *Vets in Practice*, *Life of Grime* and *Naked Westminister* and there is an interview with Paul Watson, *producer of The Family and therefore* a docusoap trailblazer. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. With Underworld and a look at Pulp's *Different Class* in Essential Albums **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am *Alex Lester* **7.30** *Wake Up to Wogan* **9.30** *Richard* Allinson **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Legends Live. Michael Parkinson presents Billy May and the BBC Big Band in concert (5/6) **8.30** Jools Holland (2/13) **9.30** Mark Lamarr: *Shake, Rattle and Roll* (3/10) **10.30** Nicky Horne **12.00am** Kalinna Leskanich **3.00** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Football Legends: Dave Mackay **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Commentary on tonight's FA Premiership game between Charlton Athletic and Wimbledon **10.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Newstalk **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit -List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** The Next Big Thing **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Time is Unredeemable **7.45** Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** The Next Big Thing **3.00** The World Tod ay **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Viotti (*Sinfonia Concertante No 1 in F major for* 2 violins) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Neruda (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); Strauss (Horn Concerto No 2 in E flat); Michael Haydn (Trombone Concerto in D); Brahms (Trio for Violin, Horn and Piano in E flat); Glinka (Serenade on themes from Donizetti's Anna Bolena) **11.00** Mappin at Night **2.00a m** Concerto. Viotti (Sinfonia Concertante No 1 in F major for 2 violins) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of Scottish Opera's *new production of* Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*
9.00 Masterworks with Penny Gore. Includes Weber (Turandot, Overture: March); Rachmaninov (The Rock); Haydn (Concerto in G, H XVIII 4)
10.30 Artist of the Work: Leonard Slatkin
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Femmes Fatales Peggy Reynolds tells the story of Lola Montez
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Georg Philipp Telemann
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the *Wigmore Hall, London. Pascal Rogé, piano. Fauré* (Nocturne in E flat minor, Op 33 No 1); Satie (Gnossiennes, Set 1); Poulenc (Suite: Les Soirees de Nazelles); Debussy (Suite: Pour le Piano)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra Ulster Orchestra under Adrian Leaper and Charles Hazlewood
4.00 Opera in Action with Robert Lloyd
4.45 Music Machine with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is entertained today by Christopher Seed and his left-handed piano
7.30 Performance on 3 BBC Scottish Symphony *Orchestra under Jery Maksymiuk, Patricia Rozario*, soprano. Kodaly (Peacock Variations); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, *excerpts*); Stravinsky (Petrushka, 1947 version)
9.05 Postscript: Magnum at the Millennium Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency (r)
9.30 Beecham Conducts Bizet French National Radio Orchestra under Thomas Beecham. Bizet (Symphony in C)
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside unearths a clutch of songs to texts by William Blake
10.45 Mixing It John Cale shares his choice of three key tracks. See Choice
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton introduces Keith Smith's ensemble Hefty Jazz
12.00am Composer of the Week: Franz Liszt (r)
1.00 Throught the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Hans Rott (String Quartet in C minor); Mozart (String Quartet *in C, K465, Dissonance*); *Goldmark* (String Quartet, Op 8); Webern (Langsamer Satz) **2.40** Sibelius (Impromptus, Op 5) **3.00** Schools: Music Box **3.15** Something to Think About **3.30** EAL: Let's Make a Story **3.45** Stories and Rhymes **4.00** Find Out **4.15** Maths Challenge **4.30** Hopscotch **4.45** Scottish Resources 7-9 **5.00** Beethoven (Minuet in G, WoO 10) **5.15** Barber (Violin Concerto) **5.40** Haydn (Missa Brevis)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Anna Hill
6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Tulip Anna Pavord reads her history of the popular flower (1/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service With Manchester Cathedral choristers. Director of music Christopher Stokes
10.00 Woman's Hour with Sheila McClennon
11.00 Life in the Workhouse People who spent their lives in the dreaded institution
11.30 Bangers and Mash Comedy series by Katie Hims. Is Martina in love with Juan José? With Gerard McDermott, Roger May and Catherine Harvey (5/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint The seventh heat of the music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The True Memoirs of Harriette Wilson Michael Crompton's tale of a woman who refused to go quietly — the courtesan who provoked Wellington's riposte, "Publish and be damned"
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 News from the world of personal finance, with Vincent Duggleby
3.30 Going, Going, Gone A rummage through the wares of auctions around the country, beginning with the Jersey Marine Auction (1/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 26 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Andrew Jefford asks *whether the genetics industry now poses the* same threat to mankind as the military (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world
5.00 PM with Clare English and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute *Clement Freud, Fred MacAulay*, Paul Merton and Graham Norton try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation. Chaired by Nicholas Parsons
7.00 The Archers Will Carl enjoy his first day?
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock investigates the ongoing appeal of downtrodden hero Willy Loman from Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 *Two Flies on the Wall* David Stafford goes behind the scenes of docusoaps. See Choice
8.30 In Business Peter Day examines the current obsession with mobile phones
9.00 Nature Understanding a garden's ecology
9.30 Start the Week *Broadcast earlier* (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories Kelsey Grammer reads *A Day at Niagara* (1/5) (r)
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Tony Robinson speaks on behalf of a charity dedicated *to those affected by* substance abuse (r)
11.02 Late Night on 4: The Hairy Hand of Dartmoor A cocktail party gets dangerously out of hand. By Michael McStay (r)
11.30 (FM) Scaling the Mountain *Musical recollections* from a top performer or composer. Presented by Robert Dawson Scott (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemona's Tale Adjoa Andoh reads the sixth *part of* Ken Saro-Wiwa's novel set in a Nigerian prison
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. *RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE.* MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

An arresting, not insulting, documentary

There was a small crop of new series beginning this weekend, of which three were variations on the theme of the human interest documentary. They provided an illuminating contrast.

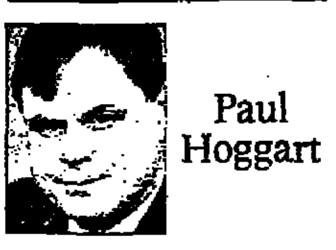
The award-winning criminologist and film-maker Roger Graef kicked off his three-part series **In Search Of Law And Order** (Channel 4, Sunday) with *The Limits Of Justice*, a study of the way the authorities in Boston, Massachusetts, have been tackling a vicious culture of drug-related teenage gang violence in the city's black Dorchester area.

Measured and unsensational, it was a model of responsible documentary-making and as such, I suppose, deeply unfashionable. The only concession to hip gimmickry was a short sequence in the opening showing some lads doing a rap about the cynicism and hatred in their lives. For the rest it was compiled from long(ish), thoughtful contributions from a full spectrum of those involved in the problem, supported by a genuinely informative commentary from Graef himself.

If that sounds worthy but deadly dull, it wasn't. It was fascinating and, in a qualified way, inspiring. We are fooling ourselves if we think that we could not end up with equally desperate situations in this country. In some areas it is happening already. In extreme, individualistic, piecemeal America, public responses range from the Neanderthal to the vigorous, proactive and enlightened, light years ahead of anything over here.

They knew they had a problem in Boston when a gang disrupted a rival gang-member's funeral in a black community church, maniacally stabbing one of the mourners. The result has been a uniquely integrated, co-ordinated programme from all law enforcement agencies, schools, churches, community groups and an impressive team of street-workers unafraid to get "down and dirty". The mixture of energetic but sensible enforcement and positive help for the teenagers has reaped huge dividends.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

Despite being about criminals, this documentary did not try to grab our attention with scenes purporting to show illegal activity in progress. After the latest revelations about Channel 4's mocked-up scenes of male prostitution, it is reassuring not to have to wonder whether such footage is fake or not. It is even more refreshing not to have one's intelligence insulted for once.

I expected to have my intelligence insulted in **Britain's Worst DIYers** (ITV, Friday). This is the first of a "Britain's Worst" series, at least one of which, I trust, will be "Britain's Worst Documentary-Makers". At least it wasn't called "DIYers From Hell", although that phrase cropped up at least once during the programme.

I have had periodic spasms of Doing-It-Myself throughout my life and have left a trail of not quite horizontal shelves to prove it. So I thought the show might offer the consolation of sympathetic identification, together with the pleasure of laughing at people even less competent than myself.

In the event it was just sad, an endless litany of curiously stubborn bodgers with the aesthetic flair of a baboon's bottom. Many shared a predilection for cheap pine mouldings from Dado Rails R Us and bright orange wallpaper. All had a peculiar psychological compulsion not to finish anything. "You've got to keep a little bit for later on," explained John from Derby.

But their houses, their lives and their stories were simply turgid and at a full hour the programme dragged on as interminably as their redecoration projects. The commentary was read by Timothy Spall, and it is hard to imagine a more painful contrast to his recent triumph in *Shooting The Past*.

There was a bizarre sequence where they secretly filmed people removing items from a skip and then followed them home. This unearthed an extraordinary collection of creative eccentrics, including a man who makes his own electric clothing which he powers from a wind generator in the garden. This material would have made a much more interesting programme in itself, and one might suspect they were using up footage from another documentary which had to be aborted for some reason.

Since the mists of TV time, the so-called "fly-on-the-docu-soap" has been accompanied by its wacky shadow, the cod fly-on-the-docusoap. One recalls with a warm glow numerous sketches by Monty Python, Victoria Wood, Reeves and Mortimer, and of course classic films like the Comic Strip's *Spinal Tap*.

Now Hat Trick productions has come up with a splendid new variant — the spoof cod fly-on-the-docu-soap. At least I think that's what **Boyz Unlimited** (Channel 4, Friday) is meant to be. At first I thought this account of an artificially manufactured "boy band" was a straight take-off, with one or two halfway decent gags, like the manager who had made his fortune in the Eighties illegally selling rare birds' eggs.

But gradually all the clichéd elements of this flagging genre popped up to be satirised. There's the commentary that begins each scene "It's (time of day) and (character) is getting worried", or "Meanwhile, tension is mounting for (character)". Or the actors who don't sound the least bit like real people. There are five more episodes to go, but I think they've made their point. Lazy television like this and "Britain's Worst" should be recognised as the anti-social nuisance it is. I suggest a combined effort by, say, the ITC, Trading Standards officials and the Boston Police to show these *people the error of their ways.*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (52576)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (47311)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8143601)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4559576)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6614040)
11.00 Real Rooms *(6631717)*
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6601576)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1884663)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (92972)
12.30 Wipeout (9215345)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48357427)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (57798)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47079595)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (25958750)
2.05 Ironside The Chief disguises himself as a lawyer-cum-artist marked for murder. With Raymond Burr (r) (3005311)
2.55 Body Spies (5359601)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6272330) **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop *(2166514)* **3.55** Bodger and Badger (3206205) **4.10** Pocket Dragon Adventures (4186595) **4.20** Anthony Ant (6700205) **4.35** Misery Guts (5044595) **5.00** Newsround (2584663) **5.10** Blue Peter (6136205)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (824972)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (663)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (243)
7.00 This is Your Life (T) (5040)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Misconceptions about brittle bone disease osteoporosis (T) (427)
8.00 EastEnders Nina's past catches up with her (T) (1088)
8.30 Dad Alan is somewhat put out when his entire family claim he is a wimp — but he soon gets a chance to prove his courage. With George Cole (T) (7345)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8359)



Trainee RSPCA Inspector Stephen *Kear gets stuck in* (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Animal Police** New series following the fortunes of prospective RSPCA inspectors (T) (93232)
10.00 Panorama The race between scientists from Britain, America and the Far East to clone the first human baby (T) (649663)
10.45 Snapshot: Helen Mirren New series. The actress visits South Africa to see how women *and children are affected by living* in a sometimes violent and misogynistic society (T) (179663)
11.15 Voices from Within (TVM 1994) FILM A police psychiatrist investigates the case of a murder victim *who has* been positively identified as two different people. Thriller, starring Corbin Bernsen. Directed by Eric Till (T) (216972)
12.40am The Good Guys and the Bad Guys (1969) FILM *An ageing sheriff and a train* robber meet up for one last showdown. Western adventure, starring Robert Mitchum and George Kennedy. Directed by Burt Kennedy (T) (5764593)
2.05 Weather *(2744098)*
2.10 BBC News 24 (88991511)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Ness (3300750) **7.05** Teletubbies (6228392) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (6014359) **7.55** Blue Peter (7176822) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7199040) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3185088) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (3174972) **9.00** Space Ark (3336755) **9.10** Short Circuit (4905885) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (1080330) **9.45** Storytime (1085885) **10.00** Teletubbies (12137) **10.30** Words and Pictures (2082779) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2070934) **11.00** Look and Read (2517525) **11.20** Zig Zag (6364311) **11.40** Landmarks (4662137) **12.05pm** History File (5639458) **12.30** Working Lunch (25796) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (94330717)
1.10 The Travel Hour s (r) (9094779)
2.10 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Six-times winner Stephen *Hendry takes on Malta's Tony Drago in this afternoon's featured second-round* match at the Wembley Conference Centre (41833040)
6.00 The Simpsons Bart finally oversteps the *mark and the normally easy-going Homer* applies a severe punishment (T) (885359)
6.20 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen Celebrities demonstrate recipes for Comic Relief, starting with Jane Asher and Stephen *Tompkinson (r) (587589)*
6.25 Hit, Miss or Maybe s (r) (T) (141427)
6.40 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Steve Davis begins his second-round match against former world *champion Ken Doherty (4851205)*
8.00 CHOICE **Raising the Roof** Paul Kenyon investigates the truth behind shoddy workmanship from supposedly reputable firms (3/6) (T) (2330)
8.30 Food and Drink Jeremy Lee prepares a fricassee of rabbit with prunes (T) (8137)
9.00 Red Dwarf Holly is involved in a duel against the computer which replaced him after a series of disasters (r) (T) (9801)



More comedy with Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton (9.30pm)

9.30 The League of Gentlemen Mike and Cheryl's wedding day arrives — but is it a mistake to let Geoff be best man? Harvey holds the funeral of his toads (T) (93214)
10.00 CHOICE **If I Ruled the World** New series of the political comedy quiz (91243)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (533798)
11.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters *Best of today's action (770427)*
11.50 Weather (431069)
12.00am Despatch Box (45354)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Building the *Perfect Beast* **1.30** English *Whose English?* **2.00** *Schools: Special Needs — Go For It!* **4.00** Languages: The French Experience 5-8 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work — Channel Hopping **5.45** Open University: The York *Mystery Plays* **6.10** Wendepunkte **6.35** Plus Ca Change

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (95866)
6.00 GMTV (6010822)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5510427)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11617934)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7286663)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (12224)
1.00 Shortland Street (42866)
1.30 Home and Away Robert's malevolent nature becomes clear (T) (11595)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5938866)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (286392)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (3305048)
3.20 HTV News (T) (5653141)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (7705304) **3.35** Kipper (3220885) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (3200021) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (3499972) **4.20** It's a Mystery (3475392) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (5068175)
5.10 WEST: Getaways Local celebrities report on their favourite holiday destinations in the region (r) (T) (9376595)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners A fine plate collection (T) (9376595)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (439953)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (764392)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (641088)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (832476)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (311)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers *(805408)*
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Denise Welch and Holly Newman visit Dubai and Jamie Theakston travels to Nice (T) (7408)
7.30 Coronation Street Hayley decides to *follow Roy (T) (595)*
8.00 Trauma Team Martin McNally fights to save the life of a motorist who ploughed into a tree at 60mph (4/6) (T) (6156)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes The *team provide a Nottingham family with a* shiny new kitchen (6/10) (T) (5663)



Dougie (Marc Warren) jeopardises the entire investigation (9pm)

9.00 The Vice Dougie makes an error of judgment by telling escort girl Emma that her agency is under investigation, putting Cheryl in danger (6/6) (T) (1311)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (95069)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (683175)
10.40 Nash Bridges Nash teams up with a sexy Chicago cop to track down a vicious murderer (T) (634866)
11.40 Midnight Caller Jack stumbles upon a sinister black market (787717)
12.40am Football Extra Football League highlights (2161248)
1.40 World Football (r) (4540070)
2.10 The Fall of the House of Usher (1960) FILM Period thriller about a man who returns to his fiancee's ancestral estate to investigate her death and discovers that she's been buried alive. Vincent Price stars. Directed by Roger Corman (4744165)
3.35 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9662354)
4.35 Soundtrax (83864731)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (88016712)
5.00 Coronation Street (T) (47373)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8685595) **1.00 High Road** (T) (42866) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1789156) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (287021) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (5653141) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9376595) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (641088) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (683175) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (787717) **4.30am Central Jobfinder '99** *(T) (8134441)* ***5.20-5.30 Asian Eye*** (7594996)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7286663) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8693514) **1.00 High Road** (T) (42866) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1789156) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (287021) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5653141) **5.08 Birthday People** (5461021) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9376595) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (20243) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** *Weather (T) (683175)* **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (787717)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7286663) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9376595) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) ([illegible]9) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (T) (311) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (683175) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (787717) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (47373)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8697330) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8685595) **5.10-5.40 Home and** ***Away (T) (9376595) 5.59 Anglia Weather*** **(T)** (419330) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (731040) **6.50-7.00 Take It On** (538224) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (953885) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (683175) **11.40 Renegade** *(644663)* ***12.30am-12.40 Soundtrax*** (2515151)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (45496953) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34284088) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (83245953) **9.25 Schools at Work** (43581972) **9.30 Geography Junction** (94302359) **9.45 Book Box** (94390514) **10.00 Ble Ar Y Ddaear?** (20704576) **10.15 Victorian Scots** (20727427) **10.30 Place and People** (69081311) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (21085682) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (95652224) **11.15 The Mix** (95675175) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (T) (40766069) **12.00pm Bewitched** (r) (T) (29676682) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38221069) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34287175) **1.30 Classic Aircraft** (6/8) (T) (38213040) **2.00 Time Team** *(T) (79925601)* ***3.00 The Lost*** **Gardens of Heligan** (5/6) (r) (T) (64636446) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81119953) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81138088) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (81127972) **5.00** ***Planed Plant (64608663) 5.30 Countdown (T)*** (81118224) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54420446) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16396953) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64628427) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81128601) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (64637175) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (64616682) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (40745576) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (56046224) **10.35 Cutting Edge** (T) (90227066) **11.35 FILM: My Stepmother is an Alien** (T) (11520476) **1.35am NME Premier Live Shows** (4/4) (34170967) **2.05 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

CHANNEL 4

5.45am The Magic Roundabout (8046392)
5.50 Animal Alphabet (8043205)
5.55 Sesame Street (3791427)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30021)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (4951953) **9.25** Schools at Work (6263514) **9.30** Geography Junction (1082798) **9.45** Book Box (1070953) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9216866) **10.15** Victorian Scots (9239717) **10.30** *Place and People (7039514)* **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (3762682) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (8355663) **11.15** The Mix (8378514)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (2934)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (85682)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (10866)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (40408)
1.30 The Three Stooges The trio attempt to make a fast buck (r) (13704953)
1.50 On the Fiddle (1961) FILM A spiv joins the RAF and persuades a slow-witted gypsy to help in his money-making schemes. With Sean Connery and Alfred Lynch. Directed by Cyril Frankel (T) (46653224)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (717)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (224)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5038934)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (3692137)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (208)
6.00 Roseanne Dan tells DJ to try ice hockey to increase his popularity (T) (601)
6.30 Hollyoaks Sean lets the cat out of the bag (T) (953)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (395682)
7.50 The Millennial Miniatures (T) (931682)



Are UFOs a cover story for the development of weapons? (8pm)

8.00 Riddle of the Skies The increase in pilots and air-traffic controllers' close encounters with UFOs. Plus claims that UFOs are in fact secret weapons in the *development stage (2/3) (T) (9717)*
9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge** A look at men's relationships with their mothers (T) (9953)
10.00 My Stepmother is an Alien (1988) FILM Scientist Dan Aykroyd's research into outer space leads him to fall for a shapely alien. Cosmic comedy, with Kim Basinger. Directed by Richard Benjamin (T) (77965330)
12.05am ***Shooting Gallery*** Short films (3/8): La Lettera (6266422)
12.20 Twisted Sheets A woman gets her own back on her former boyfriend (7427422)
12.45 Exit A prisoner is kidnapped and tries to escape from his captors *(7504809)*
12.50 Darkness in the Afternoon A woman's walk in the park turns bad (8139793)
1.10 Dispatches (r) (T) (7517373)
1.40 Powerhouse Omnibus (2092083)
2.05 The Client Reggie risks her life helping a youngster (r) (T) (787151)
3.45 Black Top Afternoon A female motorist finds herself alone (r) (19723422)
4.00 Schools: The English Programme (367441) **5.35** Off Limits (9918480)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (6634934)
7.00 WideWorld Part seven. How television influences the public idea of femininity (r) (T) (6009175)
7.30 Milkshake! *(1092589)*
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3254601)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4037175)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4036446)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (1729682)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7454953)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6107137)
10.20 Sunset Beach Annie suspects Cole and Francesca (T) (1107330)
11.10 Leeza (4516953)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4007934)
12.30 Family Affairs Roy takes drastic action (r) (T). 5 News Update (9059408)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Kim and Clarke's relationship hots up (6008446)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Guests include Dianne Warren, songwriter for Cher and Celine Dion; 5 News Update (9058779)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5204408)
2.30 Good Afternoon *(1857088)*
3.30 Going in Style (1979) Comedy drama. FILM Old-timers George Burns, Art Carney and Lee Strasberg decide to spice up their boring lives by robbing a bank. Directed by Martin Brest (T) (9834750)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (5414141)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6454953)
6.30 Family Affairs *Maria and Serge come to* crisis point with Roy (T) (6445205)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5208224)
7.30 Malaysian Jungle New six-part series exploring the hidden world of the *seemingly impenetrable equatorial* jungle, focusing on the wide variety of plant and animal life (1/6) (T), 5 News Update (6474717)
8.00 Instant Gardens New series. Model-*turned-garden designer Jac Flower* transforms eyesores into oases by means of a little horticultural magic. In the opening programme she transforms a garden in Swanmore, Southampton, with the help of high-tech computer simulation by Myles Matthews (T) (5217972)
8.30 Road Rages Show-off drivers, including a man stopped 27 times for speeding. Last in series (6/6) (T) (5203779)
9.00 Unlikely Suspects (TVM 1996) A FILM cheerleader's allegations of harassment against her team's star player fall on deaf ears at her college, prompting her to take matters into her own hands. Thriller, starring Shanna Reed, Sarah Chalke, Lochlyn Munro and Gwynyth Walsh. Directed by Joseph L. Scanlan (T), 5 News Update (44525224)
10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (5120866)
10.45 The Owl and the Pussycat (1970) FILM Broadway comedy about a mismatched couple — a prostitute and a bookseller — who share an apartment. Starring George Segal and Barbra Streisand. Directed by Herbert Ross (99684069)
12.35am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (82359286)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Meg is freed and Joan orders Marlene's beating (6355147)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9099064)

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ *number(s) for the relevant programme(s) into your* video recorder for easy taping.
For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0640 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute at all times.
VIDEO Plus+®, 14 Blacklands Trc, London, SW3 2SP

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (98069) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (44040) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (30156) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (40243) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (42048) **11.00** Guilty! (86224) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (55853) **1.00** Mad About You (80040) **1.30** Jeopardy (75717) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55866) **3.00** Jenny Jones (60311) **4.00** Guilty! (89446) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6311) **6.00** Guilty! (9595) **6.30** Friends (3175) **7.00** The Simpsons (7040) **7.30** The Simpsons (9359) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (90040) **9.00** First Wave (87576) **10.00** South Park (35601) **10.30** Seinfeld (11021) **11.00** Friends (80175) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (29972) **12.30am** The Commish (61101) **1.30** Long Play (7751606)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
The Peacemaker (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
The Ice Storm (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Trial and Error (1997)
The Devil's Advocate (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Fire Down Below (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Pickup on South Street (1953) (3717040) **7.25** Bus to Queens (4052408) **8.00 M Butterfly (1993)** (66596798) **9.40** Wired (2585717) **10.00 Another Country (1984)** (1344069) **11.30 Quiz Show (1994)** (98341412) **1.40am Go Fish (1994)** (6563977) **3.00 Muriel's Wedding (1994)** (9779460) **4.45 P'Tang Yang Kipperbang (1982)** (3951915) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Frog and Wombat (1998) (99717) **8.00 A Pig's Tale (1995)** (44336330) **10.15 Little Dorrit's Story (1987)** (77792798) **1.30pm Stanley's Search for Livingstone (1997)** (91601) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (6021) **4.00 Frog and Wombat (1998)** (9885) **5.00 A Pig's Tale (1995)** (25934) **7.30** Robin Williams's Face to Face (2069) **8.00 White Man's Burden**

(1995) (94866) **10.00 The Rock (1996)** (74586446) **12.15am Fear (1996)** (344373) **1.55 The Universal Story (1995)** (445002) **3.55 Edie and Pen (1996)** (50058793)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.05am Challengers (1988) (33237311) **7.00** Femmes Fatales: Michelle Pfeiffer (83137) **7.30** Movie Magic (5859798) **8.15** Action Heroes: John Travolta (2706298) **9.00 The Phantom (1996)** (59682) **11.00 Loyal Opposition: Terror in the White House (1997)** (84750) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Michelle Pfeiffer (82408) **1.30** Movie Magic (9568156) **2.15** Action Heroes: John Travolta (2606866) **3.00 Weekend Reunion (1990)** (30088) **5.00 Loyal Opposition: Terror in the White House (1997)** (17205) **7.00 The Phantom (1996)** (96601) **9.00 Wing and a Prayer (1998)** (95595) **11.00 The Perfect Weapon (1991)** (860717) **12.25am Final Justice (1998)** (4 29538) **2.00 Talk to Me (1996)** (348286) **3.35 Friday the 13th: Part VII: The New Blood (1988)** (6458977)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939) (4439408) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Dean Martin (3489243) **6.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954)** (1153137) **8.00 Notorious (1946)** (1158682) **10.00 Bullitt (1968)** (6222137) **11.55 Joshua Then and Now (1985)** (8510514) **1.55am Days of Glory (1944)** (69143996) **3.25 The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939)** (12424118)

TNT

9.00pm No Guts, No Glory: 75 Years of Stars (92208088) **10.00 Now, Voyager (1942)** (32113750) **12.15am A Very Private Affair (1962)** (64728286) **2.00 Battle Beneath the Earth (1967)** (54888847) **3.30 Children of the Damned (1964)** (16169538) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **8.30** Snow Show **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** League Review **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** What a Weekend **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Football **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** You're On Sky Sports! **11.15** League Review **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Football Special **3.15** Football League Review **4.15** Sports Centre **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf **11.00** Golf: Malaysian Open **1.00pm** Max Power **2.00** World Windsurfing **2.30** Watersports World **3.30** Motor Racing **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** World Windsurfing **6.30** V-Max **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.00** Total Sport **10.30** World Windsurfing **11.00** Squash **12.00am** World Motor Sport **3.00** *Sports Centre* **3.15** *Close*

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Scottish Football **1.00** NFL Football **4.30** Basketball **6.30** Total Sport **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** Squash **9.00** Triathlon **10.00** *Wonderful World of Golf* **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboarding **8.00** Bobsleigh **8.00** Extreme Sports **10.00** Biathlon **11.00** Women's Skiing **12.00** *Ski-Jumping* **1.30** Snowboarding **2.00** Biathlon **3.30** Women's Skiing **4.30** Luge **5.00** Extreme Sports **6.00** Live Skiing **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Trial **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Eurogoals **11.30** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** Casualty **10.35** Hamish Macbeth **11.40** The Bill **12.40am** Sports Anorak of the Year **1.10** Spender **2.05** Ivanhoe **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation St **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation St **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation St **7.00** Mission Impossible **8.00** Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation St **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Rupert Everett and Colin Firth star in *Another Country*, an award-winning drama set in a 1930s public school (FilmFour, 10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummy Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** Toothbrush Family **10.00** Recess **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame St **12.00pm** Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: You Lucky Dog (1998)** **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00am** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** *Children's BBC* **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** *PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness* **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** *Pippi Longstocking* **4.00** *Hey Arnold!* **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am *Power Rangers Turbo* **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** *Sam and Max* **12.30** *Donkey Kong Country* **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spider-man **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00 FILM: Frankenhooker (1990)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** *Erotic Series* **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05 FILM: Sci-Fighters (1996)** **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbot and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The *Twilight Zone* **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** *Mysteries, Magic and Miracles* **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Escape from New York (1981)** **12.00am** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30** Tales of the Unexpected **1.00 FILM: Bombshell (1996)** **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** *Wedding Story* **8.30** *A Baby Story* **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** The Great Garden Game **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country: Get Stuck In **11.30** *Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures* **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Specials **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The *Supernatural* **9.00** *Killer Weather: Lightning* **10.00** War and Civilisation **11.00** 21st Century Jet **12.00am** Planet Ocean: The Sea of Evil **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Animal X **12.30** Ocean Wilds **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** *Pet Rescue* **5.30** *Crocodile Hunters* **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: New Zealand **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart: Dolphins of Kaikoura Bay **9.30** Emergency *Vets* **10.00** *Profiles of Nature* **11.00** Breed All About It: Old English Sheep Dogs **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Cape Followers **7.30** American Cowboys **8.00** Human Nature: Beauty and the Beast **9.00** Two Tales of Peru **9.30** Tale Tellers **10.00** Lost Worlds: Clues to the Past **10.30** Lost Worlds: Maya Mysteries **11.00** Lost Worlds: Renaissance of the Dinosaurs **12.00am** On the Edge: Deep Diving with the Russians

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: Reckoning **5.00** Lighter Than Air: The Rise of the Zeppelin **6.00** The Quest for the Fountain of Youth **7.00** Show Business: Minstrels to Megastars **7.30** Giants of Sport: You Never Had It So Good — 1956-1960

CARLTON FOOD

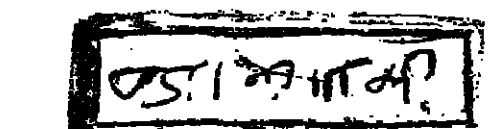
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Taste of England **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Winter Nosh **1.00** Taste of England **1.30** Rustie's Real Cooks **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Jenny Bristow Cooking in the Kitchen **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Vin Ordinaire **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Philbert the Frog **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical *Parenting* **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babakoos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Ro londa **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: Sins of the Mother (TVM 1991)** **11.30** *The Sex Zone* **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Katheyen **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Farm **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Banegi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Intiham** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Mir Pe Ikka **4.00** Campus **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Daastan **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Gumrah **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Bhuni 2 **12.00am** News **12.30** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Punjabi Movie** **4.30** Ebar Jombe Movkja





PROFILE 44
Orange aims for brighter future

BUSINESS

RATES 46
Roger Bootle on impact of the squeeze



DTI outlines fears for 800 small firms

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 800 small companies may soon be forced from the equity markets because they are being starved of investment, according to a Department of Trade and Industry report published today. The combined value of the companies would equal BP-Amoco, the oil company.

The exit of the businesses from the stock market would have serious implications for an important section of the economy and for the attempts by the Government to improve Britain's competitiveness.

The warning that two fifths of the country's quoted companies could be pushed out of the markets, and thus excluded from a vital means of raising cash, comes in a report published today by the Department of Trade and Industry. The study into how smaller companies do business with the City says that global and domestic odds are stacking up against investment in them. Its findings come only weeks after the Government held up the small company and entrepreneur as crucial to fuelling the economy in its Competitiveness White Paper.

The report, written by a cross-section of industry and investors, says that smaller companies are being squeezed by the increasing consolidation of investment funds and the growing globalisation of equity markets. Both factors are reducing investment diversity and marginalising the small player. A further blow is dealt by the mounting trend for investment funds to index their resources — concentrating on tracking the FTSE 100, 200 and 350. Added to this is a fundamental failing by smaller companies to communicate effectively.

In a joint foreword to the report Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, MP, who heads the small quoted companies association Cisco, say "it is vital that they can obtain supportive finance from institutional investors to facilitate their further development".

The Stock Exchange is sending the report to all listed companies outside the FTSE 350 to alert them to the danger.

Paul Myners, the main author of the report, said: "The lack of *investment interest in* small companies has important implications for small *companies and also government* policy because it threatens competitiveness."

Katie Morris, chief executive of Cisco, said: "Smaller quoted companies are under *extreme pressure* and it is *imperative* that fund managers take a less negative and more *realistic* approach to valuation and to risk perception."

A fall in investment interest in *smaller businesses* is likely to trigger dangerous knock-on effects, the report says. Venture capitalists will be less keen to pump money into new businesses — and they are already reluctant to back start-ups — because they will not be able to exit their stakes if the companies' shares are poorly traded.

The report says that companies and fund managers must improve communication. It found that both businesses and investors had a poor understanding of each other's priorities and requirements.

Weak lifeblood, page 46

Mergers may end FTSE 100

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A YEAR of mega-mergers *among the UK's biggest companies* could spell the end of the dominance of the FTSE *100 index as a benchmark of* share performance.

Growing City concern about *the composition* of the index has prompted the FTSE Steering Committee to consid*er creating an alternative*. The committee, chaired by Geoff Lindey, chief executive of in*vestment management for* JP Morgan, has said it is "keen to open a debate" on the issue

Institutional investors are becoming concerned that 45 per cent of the FTSE 100 index is already dominated by the top ten UK companies. A few big deals in the banking or pharmaceutical sectors could concentrate 30 per cent of the index in just three companies. Anglo American and other South African companies are set to join Billiton in the list of *the UK's leading businesses.*

Steven Vale, policy manager, said that the creation of BP *Amoco, which began trading* as a £84 billion merged group last month, had highlighted *the issue. Had Glaxo Well*come merged with its pharmaceutical rival SmithKline Bee*cham* last year, the *merged* company would have been bigger even than BP Amoco.

Some institutional investors have suggested scrapping the FTSE 100 index in favour of the all-share index, although the FTSE 100 accounts for 80 per cent of that index.

Further mergers may also be a headache for tracker funds, particularly ones trying to replicate the FTSE 100 for private investors. Under EU law, unit trusts must not hold more than a 10 per cent of their portfolio in one stock.



Bill Landels, left, and Dr Bill Pardoe reflect on a multimillion-pound energy deal between Scottish Power and Pilkington

Float plan for Scottish Telecom

BY PAUL DURMAN

SCOTTISH POWER, whose ManWeb subsidiary, headed by Bill Landels, managing director, is supplying a new efficient energy system to Pilkington's glassmaking operation in St Helens, is reported to be considering a £2 billion flotation for its telecommunications business.

Scottish Telecom, which is owned by Scottish Power, paid £66 million last year for Demon Internet, one of the UK's leading Internet access providers. It also offers business and residential services.

It is claimed a new 20-year agreement will save the glassmaker, whose European manufacturing director is Bill Pardoe, £1 million a year.

UK bank profits decline in face of competition

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

UK BANKS are expected to show flat or falling profits this year because of heightened competition in the mortgage market and the fallout from the crisis in emerging markets.

The mortgage banks — Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Halifax — had failed to diversify from their core businesses of lending and savings, said analysts. Their ability to lend money had been hampered by fierce competition from the mutual societies.

Margins at all the banks have been squeezed by the cuts in base rates, as the banks cannot afford to cut their savings by too much.

New mortgage lenders, such as Standard Life, are poised to take an even bigger share of the mortgage market next year. The share prices of mortgage banks had fallen or remained static over the past 12 months, despite the big rise in the All-Share index.

Lloyds TSB, the first bank to report its results, is expected on Friday to announce pre-tax profits in the region of £2.9 billion to £3.2 billion. The top end of the profit prediction is only slightly higher than last year's figure of £3.16 billion. Its profits for 1997-1998 were 25 per cent higher than the previous year.

Barclays, on the other hand, is expected to reveal substantial losses on emerging markets through its Barclays Capital subsidiary. Analysts said last week they were reassured by the management's assertions that profits would not fall below £1.9 billion.

The results from NatWest are expected to be better than Barclays, reflecting the fact that NatWest dealt with it problems in investment banking before Barclays. Profits at NatWest are expected to be about £1.9 billion, up from £1.4 billion last year.

HSBC and Standard Chartered are expected to be most affected by the crisis in the Far East. Profits at HSBC are expected to fall to £4.2 billion from £4.9 billion last year.

Bug imperils floats and buyouts

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE Department of Trade and Industry, the British Venture Capital Association and the Accounting Standards Board have been meeting leading accountants and private capital firms to try to avert crisis in the £13 billion venture capital market later this year.

Accountants say that they *will not be able* to authorise leveraged buyouts because of worries about the millennium *computer bug. The problem* has already nearly blocked one big deal, and leading ven*ture capitalists say the market* could collapse.

The problem is also expect*ed to prevent many companies* floating on the stock market because accountants will not be *able* to agree working capital statements because of bug-related uncertainties.

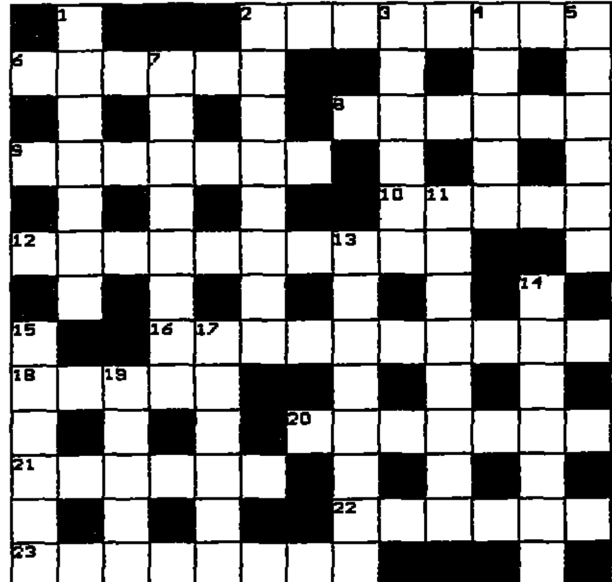
Venture capital deals could collapse because accountants will not sign Financial Assistance certificates, which allow shares in a company to be bought with leveraged finance. The certificates say that a company can meet all its financial obligations over the next 12 months.

However, almost all companies are unable to forecast the financial impact of the Year 2000 bug on their business. Accounting firms are refusing to sign the certificates because if bug-related problems put buyouts into financial difficulties within 12 months, the accountants can be sued by investors and banks. "The problem is that Financial Assistance certificates cannot be qualified," said John Cole, a partner in Ernst & Young.

Accountants have already held meetings with the DTI and the BVCA to try to resolve the problem. The Accounting Standards Board is this week due to issue guidance on what procedures accountants need to adopt that might allow them to sign the certificates.

This will call for directors of a buyout to issue a detailed statement on how well prepared they and their suppliers and customers are for 2000. If accountants can satisfy themselves that this is "reasonable", the ASB will say, certificates can be issued.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1635

ACROSS
2 Easy conquest (4-4)
6 Indigent person (6)
8 Apprehend directly (6)
9 Corridor (7)
10 One playing a part (5)
12 Uncomplimentary (10)
16 A let-down (10)
18 Serving spoon (5)
20 Fine-weather timepiece (7)
21 Desperately sad (6)
22 Homily (6)
23 Awful place (4-4)

DOWN
1 Hubbub: boring fuss (7)
2 Expecting (8)
3 Aeroplane garage (6)
4 Boast (arch.) (5)
5 Hold back, slow down (6)
7 Rural (poetry) (8)
11 Part of car: math. solid (8)
13 Naturally (2,6)
14 One exhibiting all virtues (7)
15 Part of car: some eggs (6)
17 Fairly recent (6)
19 Slow style of speech (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1634
ACROSS: 1 Grand 4 Schemer 8 Ravishing 9 Rap 10 Ear 11 Sepulchre 12 Piece 13 Niche 16 Nuremberg 18 Bud 20 Cwm 21 Vade-mecum 22 Austere 23 Stern
DOWN: 1 Gorse 2 Adverse 3 Disaster movie 4 Skimpy 5 Highland Games 6 March 7 Replete 12 Panacea 14 Cubicle 15 Beadle 17 Remus 19 Demon

City duo extend research lead

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE dominance of the two big names in City research and analysis continues to grow, *according to a poll of the* country's top companies, with Merrill Lynch and Warburg *Dillon Read pulling away* further from the rest of the pack.

The two were voted in first and second place, respectively, in a league of top securities houses for research, the same places achieved in last year's poll. In addition, Warburg held on to the number one slot for corporate finance advice.

The gap between the two on research has narrowed, according to *the survey in Securities and Investment Review*, the magazine of the *Securities Institute, which is* published today. However, their scores have drawn ahead of the other big City players. Credit Suisse First Boston, merged since last year with *BZW Securities, comes in* third, but with a score that is only half that of the two big *players.*

Clive Brand, client services director of Consensus Research, the firm that conducted the poll, said: "It will take a major investment of time, effort and resource for any of the other players to become a genuine challenger to the Big Two."

The survey also showed that although companies thought that analysts generally had a good knowledge of their financial track record and strategy, their future prospects *and sales and marketing* efforts were much less well understood.

Midshires spurns call for meeting

BY SUSAN EMMETT

BIRMINGHAM Midshires Building Society has provoked *a dispute with some of its members* by dismissing calls for another general meeting as *"frivolous" and "vexatious"*.

The society, which is shortly to be become part of Halifax, said the takeover had been approved by 95 per cent of members last December and that a further meeting would be a waste of time and money.

But Bob Goodall, who is campaigning against the conversion of mutuals, feels slighted. He said: "I believe that this interpretation is entirely bogus and a device by the board to stop a second [meeting] that would have allowed members an opportunity *to* protect mortgage customers, protect savers and protect jobs."

EMI tunes into Net

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

FIVE of the world's largest record companies will today announce in New York that they are to begin a trial to allow full-length CDs to be downloaded over the Internet.

The initiative by BMG, EMI, whose artists range from Sir Cliff Richard to the Artist Formerly Known As Prince, Sony Music, Universal Music and Warner Music indicates how seriously the companies take the Internet threat.

Music is already being downloaded on the Internet in breach of copyright. Some artists have already started by-passing the record companies entirely and using the Internet to sell directly to the public. David Bowie was among the first to experiment with the medium.



Prince: EMI artist

The market trial, on a cable system in San Diego, is expected to begin in the spring and last for most of this year. The record companies are working with IBM to test various ways of delivering music commercially on the Internet. The main thrust of the trial will involve using the broadband cable network but it is believed the use of conventional telephone lines will also be assessed. Hundreds of CD albums and new singles will be available for purchase by credit card through an online store.

An important aspect of the test will be to ensure that *the* transactions are secure.

The record companies want to ensure that consumers can buy music over the Internet without infringing intellectual property rights. Under the *trial* San Diego cable subscribers will be able to download music directly into their PCs.